

Superpowers polish anti-cheating accord

GENEVA (R) — U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers meet this week with a strategic aim: to polish the anti-cheating accord, but superpower negotiators are quietly polishing the accord behind the scenes to prevent cheating on existing agreements. "It is our hope they could be concluded this year, certainly no later than May," said U.S. official said of the attempt to add strict verification measures to 1978 test ban treaties, which were not ratified by the U.S. Senate. U.S. officials said it was unlikely U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in talks starting in Moscow Thursday could clear the way for nuclear test measures to be adopted at next month's summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. It was even uncertain whether the enormous amount of work on a treaty to have the superpowers' strategic nuclear arsenals could be completed in time for the May 29 summit, despite the high priority both sides place on that. The task of agreeing strict verification measures for compliance with test ban treaties is unlikely to get most attention at the foreign ministers' meeting, but unprecedented efforts are being prepared to help towards its achievement.

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Ureikat returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat returned home from Tunis Monday after attending emergency meetings of the Executive Committee of the Council of Arab Social Development Ministers. The minister said the meetings discussed the Palestinian uprising and other issues. The next regular session of the council will be held in Sudan, he said.

Kuwait to pay family debts of slain hostages

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's emir has ordered the government to settle all debts owed by the families of the two hostages killed by hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported Monday. It said an emergency cabinet meeting reviewed the latest developments in talks to free an estimated 31 hostages still on the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 in Algeria. The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, ordered cancellation of debts to state agencies and settlement of private debts owed by the families of the two Kuwaitis killed in Cyprus. The government would also continue to pay the salaries of the dead men to their families, KUNA said.

Turkish forces battle rebels

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkey rushed reinforcements Monday to an area near the Iraqi frontier where security forces were fighting about 75 separatist Kurdish rebels, official sources said. The battle with rebels of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) erupted around noon and was continuing seven hours later, they said. At least six Turkish soldiers were injured. Puma helicopters and squads trained in anti-guerrilla warfare had been sent to the scene near Dereler village in the southeastern province of Siirt, the sources said. It was the biggest battle reported since the rebels, seeking autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds, resumed attacks in the rugged southeast in March after a harsh winter.

Ethiopia allows U.N. relief work

ADDIS ABABA (R) — U.N. relief officials can carry on working in Ethiopia's war-torn northern provinces despite the expulsion of other foreign aid workers from the region, a government official said Monday. "The government statement requesting the withdrawal of foreign aid workers did not include United Nations staff," Berhanu Jembere, head of the government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), told Reuters in an interview. Ethiopia's government ordered an estimated 40 to 60 foreign relief workers to leave Eritrea and Tigray April 6 for their own safety in view of increased rebel activity in the two provinces. Berhanu's remarks followed a meeting Saturday between U.N. special envoy Marti Ahtisaari and President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Greece to press for Elgin marbles

ATHENS (R) — Culture Minister Melina Mercouri said Monday Greece was launching a new strategy to reclaim the Elgin marbles, ancient sculptures from the Acropolis in Athens, from the British museum in London by 1996. The aim of the new strategy is to build a new museum for the marbles at their original home, to counter arguments that if returned they would be ruined by Athens' severe pollution. Politicians, archaeologists and others from England who oppose the return of the marbles will then be invited to "come and see the reality," Mercouri told journalists. "We want the parts that are in the British museum, that are the dead like stones, where they belong," she added. Mercouri said she hoped that her five-year campaign for the marbles' return would be realised by the Olympic Games, which Greece has bid to host for that year. "It is the goal of my life," she said.

Iraq retakes Fao, purges Iranians from peninsula

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said its forces Monday retook the town of Fao near the tip of the Iraqi peninsula that had been captured by Iran more than two years ago.

"Victorious Iraqi armed forces entered Fao today and hoisted the Iraqi flag," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported in an urgent dispatch. A war communique read over Baghdad Television said Iranian occupying forces were driving out of the peninsula, over to the other side of the Shatt Al Arab waterway which borders the peninsula. It was the first time Iraq had taken the initiative in a major offensive since the early years of the Gulf war. The communique told Iraqis: "Your sons have entered the dear town of Fao, liberating its soil from the filth of the invaders." An Iraqi official said thousands of Iranian soldiers and Revolutionary Guards had been killed, wounded or captured in the Fao offensive. "Our forces have destroyed the last Iranian defensive perimeter

Iran had more than 50,000 troops on the southern part of the peninsula, 90 kilometres south of the port of Basra. An Iraqi high command communique said troops of the Presidential Guards and the Seventh Army Corps had wiped out all Iranian forces on the peninsula except for a few isolated groups. The communique said the first two objectives of the surprise offensive had been reached and a final target remained. It did not elaborate. An earlier Iraqi communique said the Iraqis had retaken a large salt pan which formed a natural barrier against armour moving towards the tip of the peninsula. The land between the salt pan and the terminal, however, is hard and suitable for tanks and other armoured vehicles. One diplomat in Baghdad said Iraq might have ferried its armour along the Khawr 'Abd Allah channel for the final assault. Iraq had said its forces had recaptured the bank of the channel in the first hours of the offensive. Kuwait's Bubiyan Island lies on the western side of the narrow channel, which leads to Iraq's only naval base at Umm Qasr. (Continued on page 5)

American, Iranian forces clash in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — U.S. warships Monday destroyed two Iranian oil platforms and sank an Iranian patrol boat in what Washington called a "measured response" for Iran's allegedly planting a mine that holed an American frigate. Acting on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's instructions, two groups of navy warships at about 9 a.m. (0500 GMT) struck simultaneously at the two Iranian platforms, Sassan and Sirri-D which are 160 kilometres apart in the southern Gulf. They gave the Iranians a brief warning to evacuate before striking. Reagan, in his first public comments on the U.S.-Iranian clashes, called the U.S. attacks on two Iranian oil platforms a "measured response" for a mine explosion that holed a U.S. frigate last Thursday, injuring ten

U.S. seamen. "If they threaten us they will pay a price," Reagan said in brief remarks on the Gulf at the start of a speech to a national building contractors organisation. The attack was carried out in retaliation for a mine explosion that ripped open the hull of the American frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts in the Gulf last Thursday, when 10 crewmen were injured. Both of the platforms were destroyed and left ablaze, one by naval gunfire and the other by planted explosives, according to statements from Washington. No casualties were reported among U.S. forces in the attacks. Iran's official Islamic Republic

Sky pirates use royal family hostage to increase pressure

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Hijackers aboard a Kuwaiti airliner put a member of Kuwait's ruling family held hostage aboard the plane on radio to make a terrified plea Monday for the release of prisoners held in Kuwait jails. Fadel Al Sabah, his voice barely audible, called for the "release of the prisoners in Kuwait," in a radio broadcast from the Kuwaiti Jumbo jet at Algiers airport.

Gemayel: Iranian feuds wrecked hostage deal

PARIS (Agencies) — President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon, on a private visit to France, said Monday that positive results had been achieved in efforts to win the release of French hostages in Lebanon recently, but had been complicated by factional squabbling in Iran. "Our security services were in direct relations with the French services studying the evacuation, the liberation of certain French hostages," the president said in a television interview. "There was even talk about the airport of disembarkation of these French hostages for which we hoped a quick release just 15 days ago," he said. But, Gemayel said, "things seemed to get complicated" because of "certain dissensions within the Iranian establish-

ment," then because of "a certain stiffening on the part of one side and the other concerning certain conditions." "Obviously, the affair of the Kuwaiti Boeing is not helping things," he said, referring to the jetliner hijacked April 5, now sitting at Algiers airport with more than 30 hostages aboard. In Lebanon, pro-Iranian extremists in Iran are holding at least three French hostages, diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann. The kidnappers claim another French hostage, Michel Seurat, was killed, but his body has never been found. Gemayel said it was "very possible" that the struggle among various clans in Iran was behind the hijacking.



President Saddam Hussein



HM King Hussein

King congratulates Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday contacted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein over the phone and congratulated him on Iraq's recapture of the Fao peninsula. The King congratulated President Hussein and the Iraqi armed forces and people and hailed the Iraqi advance as an honourable victory. The Iraqi president expressed deep appreciation of and pride in the King's support for Iraq and Arab causes.

Crown Prince, Singapore leaders discuss cooperation

SINGAPORE (Petra) — Official Jordanian-Singaporean talks began here Monday co-chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and by Singapore's acting prime minister. The talks dealt with issues of common concern to both countries as well as means of boosting bilateral relations in various fields. The talks were attended by members of the Jordanian delegation accompanying the Crown Prince and senior Singaporean officials. Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath also paid a courtesy visit to Singaporean President Wee Kim Wee and his wife at the presidential palace. Their Highnesses and the accompanying delegation arrived here earlier Monday on a two-day official visit. Prince Hassan and the accompanying delegation visited Singapore's main port and a housing development corporation. President Wee and his wife hosted an Iftar banquet Monday evening in honour of Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath.

PLO moves Abu Jihad funeral to Syria; all leaders may attend

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) switched funeral plans for assassinated deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir to Syria Monday, saying it has been told by Damascus that Chairman Yasser Arafat and other PLO leaders would be welcome to attend. The change in funeral arrangements, earlier set for Amman, appeared to mark a major improvement in the PLO's stormy relations with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. There was no confirmation that Arafat would go, however. Wazir, popularly known as

Tunisia finds Israeli complicity in murder

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia said Monday that an Israeli military plane with sophisticated electronic jamming equipment had flown near Tunis and that this confirmed Israeli complicity in the assassination of Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad). The official news agency TAP said Tunisia was protesting to the United Nations Security Council. An Israeli Boeing 707 aircraft flew near Tunisian airspace at the time of Saturday's machine-gunning killing of Abu Jihad and used electronic equipment to jam telephone communications around Abu Jihad's home, TAP said. The agency was announcing the findings of a special committee of inquiry into the murder. "The inquiry established that Israel was implicated in this cowardly terrorist act which it planned and executed," TAP said. President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali, who ordered the investigation, has asked his foreign minister to inform the ambassadors to the member countries of the Security Council. The committee "found that the killing was 'terrorist' in the sort that only states are capable of carrying out." TAP said: "The committee... established that an Israeli military Boeing 707 plane, carrying the inscription 4977 flew near Tunisian air space at the time of the operation." The aircraft stayed in an international air corridor some 55 kilometres from Tunisian territory "so as not to expose itself to intervention by the Tunisian air force," it said.

Israeli court convicts Demjanjuk of all counts

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli court Monday convicted John Demjanjuk of Nazi war crimes, ruling the former Ohio autoworker was a Nazi camp guard who sent hundreds of thousands of people to their deaths in World War II. "We determine decisively and without hesitation or doubt that the accused John Demjanjuk who is on trial before us, is Ivan, known as 'Ivan the Terrible,' the operator of gas chambers," said the presiding judge, Dov Levine. The three-judge court convicted Demjanjuk, 68, of all four counts against him: War crimes, crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity and crimes against persecuted people. Demjanjuk was absent from the court as the guilty verdict was read. He will be sentenced next Monday and could face the death penalty. Observers have said it was more likely he would receive a life prison term. Defence attorneys have said they would appeal the verdict. Demjanjuk was the second person to be convicted of war crimes in Israel. Adolf Eichmann was hung in 1962. Before the verdict was announced, Demjanjuk's attorney and relatives said they expected a conviction.

Commandos clash with Israeli forces

TYRE (R) — Israeli troops clashed with Palestinian commandos in South Lebanon Monday after intercepting an attempt to infiltrate across the border. An Israeli-backed militia's radio station said. The Voice of Hope station, run by the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, said one commando was killed in the clash in the foothills of the Jabal Al Sheikh range inside Israel's self-declared "security zone." One Palestinian was killed and "the remaining members of the squad fled," said the station, monitored in Tyre. It gave no further details. On Sunday Israeli troops killed another commando and wounded a Lebanese fighter trying to infiltrate the "security zone," security sources said. Troops backed by helicopter gunships chased the six-man unit of the Lebanese National Resistance — a coalition of pro-Syrian Lebanese and Palestinian fighters — as they neared the village of Shebaa, west of Mount Hermon, they said. The gunships dropped flares and raked the area with machinegun fire. The body of the commander of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) was left inside the buffer zone.

Strikes, curfews paralyse occupied territories; press access denied

Israeli soldiers kill 3 more Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian strikes and Israeli imposed curfews combined to paralyse the occupied West Bank and Gaza Monday and hospital officials said troops killed three Palestinians, including a woman a witness said was trying to take her children home from a protest. Israel sent closure orders to Jerusalem's only English-language magazine owned by Palestinians. Its managing editor denied the allegations. In the West Bank, black flags of mourning were strung from buildings and hundreds of Palesti-

Jordan warns of Israeli nuclear threat to world

GUATEMALA CITY (Petra) — The head of Jordan's delegation to an International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting, Hazem Nuseibeh, has warned the international community of the danger inherent in Israel's nuclear arsenal. Addressing the IPU's 79th meeting here, Nuseibeh said Israel had more than 200 nuclear warheads and was going ahead with plans for further production at a time when superpowers were scaling down nuclear weapons. If a nuclear war is to be imposed on the world it would be caused by Israel, Nuseibeh warned. Nuseibeh also spoke about Israel's inhuman practices against the Palestinian people, especially in the wake of the 18-week-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and called on the IPU to set up a fact-finding mission into Israel's atrocities. The Palestinian people, Nuseibeh said, is trying to defend its existence in the face of neo-Nazi measures of destruction, murder, eviction and intimidation.

Rifai sends condolences to Arafat

AMMAN (J.T.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai voiced deep sorrow Monday at the death of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad). In a cable of condolences to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Rifai described Abu Jihad as "a great man who dedicated his life to liberating the Palestinian land and to defending the Palestinian people's legitimate rights." Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayed also sent a cable of condolences to Arafat.

Abu Jihad, was machine-gunned to death at his home in Tunis Saturday by a hit-squad which both Arab leaders and Israeli sources say was sent by Israel. In Amman, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri confirmed that the change had been made at the request of Wazir's family and the PLO. Masri told the AP: "Jordan welcomed Wazir's burial in Amman and we had the doors open for all PLO to attend." The original plan was to have the body flown to Amman and the burial to take place Tuesday in the Al Sahabah cemetery, in the Jordan Valley, overlooking hills near Jerusalem, according to the AP. "The plans were changed upon a request from Wazir's sick father," a PLO official told the AP on condition he not be identified. "Wazir always wanted to be buried close to Jerusalem," the official said in a telephone call from Tunisia. "We thought that the valley was the closest to Jerusalem." "But his father insisted on attending the funeral," the official said. Wazir's father Ibrahim, 80, and mother Fawzieh, 79, live in Damascus. PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman told Reuters in Tunis Monday that funeral plans

Mitterrand boosts campaign

PARIS (R) — Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, spurred by charges that he is too old to serve another seven-year term, is stepping up the tempo of his campaign in the final week before the first ballot of the presidential elections. Mitterrand, 71, is favourite to win a new mandate in the two-round election to be held April 24 and May 8, but some opinion polls suggest that his lead over the main challenger, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, is softening. Mitterrand has scheduled two extra radio interviews this week and has added plans to travel to French Caribbean territories April 26-27 — an itinerary which will ensure exotic television pictures at home. He also summoned his national support committee for a meeting Monday to breathe new life into his campaign, which some strategists see as too complacent. Mitterrand has so far based his campaign on retaining the prestige of the presidency and appearing as little as possible in the role of candidate. Most polls give the Socialist leader 37-38 per cent of the vote on the first ballot, comfortably ahead of Chirac with 22-23.5 per cent. But one poll, taken last week by the BVA opinion research organisation, gave the president only 34 per cent. This is not enough, according to posters, for Mitterrand to be sure of victory in the May 8 run-off. Under France's election rules, no further opinion polls on the election may be published until after voting Sunday, although candidates can commission their own surveys for private use.

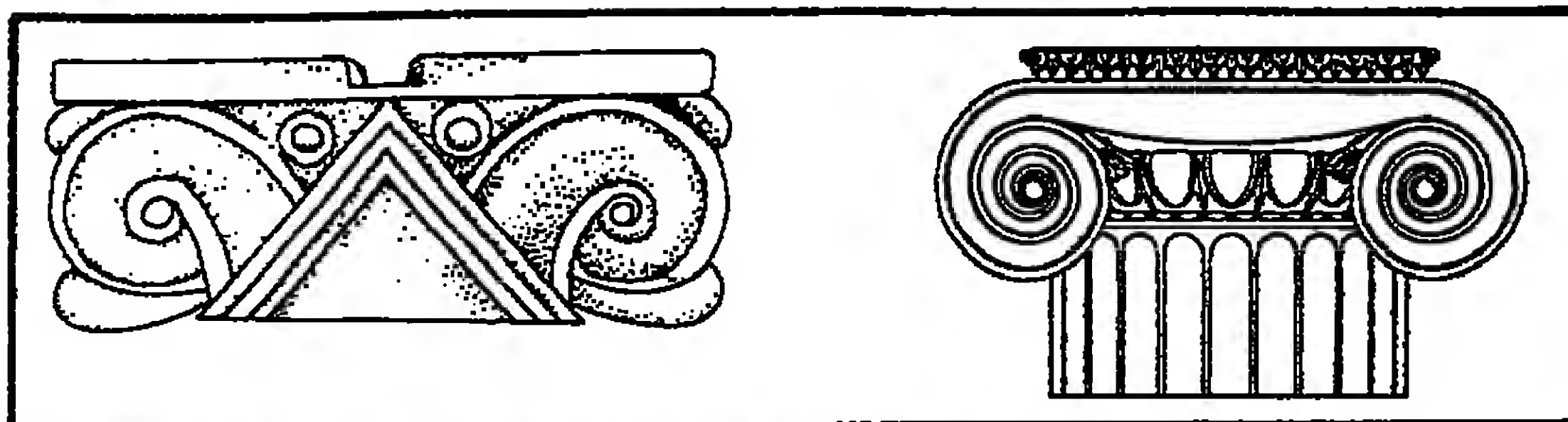
Greece and Jordan: 3,000 years of contacts

The following are excerpts from a lecture by Konstantinos D. Politis given to the Jordanian-Greek Friendship Association, on 19 March 1988 in the Orthodox Club, Amman. The writer is a graduate student of archaeology at the University of London.

TO TRACE the contacts which the Greek nation has had with the Arab people is a huge endeavour. The intertwining of the two cultural heritages make-up the very history of the Middle East for the last 3,000 years. The two nations have been at the cross-road for ideas and technology flowing east and west for millennia.

There is no written record of the first time a Greek met an Arab, but that contact must have been constant and regular, for the archaeological record shows objects from both nations found in each others land from the earliest of times.

Stirrup jars manufactured in Mycenae on mainland Greece and from local islands in about 1200 B.C. have been found at many sites in Jordan. In the exceptionally large tomb at Tabaqat-Fahl (Pella) in the Jordan Valley, Number 62, many stirrup jars were found amongst the 2,000 other imported and local vessels. Most notable though is the Late Bronze Age temple discovered at the old Amman airport near Marka where some 60 Mycenaean and Minoan pots were found. This may have been the farthest eastern Greek influence at this early time. But whether these were actual Mycenaean Greeks living and being buried in Jordan, or simply that the pottery was imported as a luxury item, has not yet been established. The quantity and value, though, which was placed upon this Greek pottery was certainly an early influence on the art of



Proto-Aeolic capital from Palestine (left) and the later Ionic capital from Greece.

Jordan.

At the large Iron Age cemetery of Tell es-Sa'idiyeh in the Jordan Valley, only three original Mycenaean stirrup jars were found in the 300 so far excavated. But some 180 imitations found in various burials indicate how venerated these objects were, and to what extent the indigenous population was willing to copy them. Some even believe that at the end of the Late Bronze Age, the Greek Mycenaeans even had established colonies at Tell Abu Hawam on the modern port of Haifa, and Ugarit at Ras Shamra in Syria where pottery types and even architecture are predominantly Greek or Cypriot.

In return for luxury items such as the stirrup jar coming from Greece, the Levantines may have been trading agricultural produce or raw materials. Large Phoenician storage vessels, perhaps for grain or oil were found in later times in mainland Greece. The ancient Phoenician language formed a basis for the Greek alphabet. And, the proto-aeolic capital with palmette motif derived in Iron Age Palestine may very well have been the predecessor to the Cypriot and Aeolic capitals which later influenced the classic Greek Ionic order.

The foundation of the Decapolis cities by Alexander the Great and his successors is somewhat

disputed, as no early Hellenistic material has been discovered at any of these sites. All the archaeological excavations and investigations have so far only discovered late Hellenistic finds. Therefore, the only evidence we have for the founding of the Decapolis cities by Alexander are the place-names themselves.

Tabaqat-Fahl (Pella) in the Jordan Valley may have come from Pella in northern Greece. The same would apply for Dion. Meanwhile Jerash could be the ancient Gerasa. On the other hand, what has previously been called Late Iron Age and/or Persian material could represent the early Hellenistic period; although the Persian armies may have been replaced by the Greek, the potters and craftsmen stayed behind. The important point here is that the indigenous people of Jordan remained the same, but only adopted the material culture of their conquerors after a considerable time of dominance and influence. Thus, Late Iron Age and Persian material could have been used during the early Hellenistic times when Alexander was expanding into the Jordanian area, and establishing the Decapolis cities.

So we can see that although Alexander the Great brought Greek influence into Jordan, the local traditions and culture of the people of Jordan were equally as strong and eventually mixed to form a unique local material culture in the Hellenistic period. Nabatean pottery is one good example of what could be produced.

Perhaps the place where this is most clearly depicted is the magnificent rose-coloured city of ancient Petra. Here we have a beautiful blend of classic Greek architecture along side Near Eastern art. The cavetto stepped design seen on many buildings in Petra derives from Assyria, where as the classic order in the architecture of most of the structures clearly show Hellenistic influences. The marriage is a wonderful example of Greek and Arab inter-cultural exchanges.

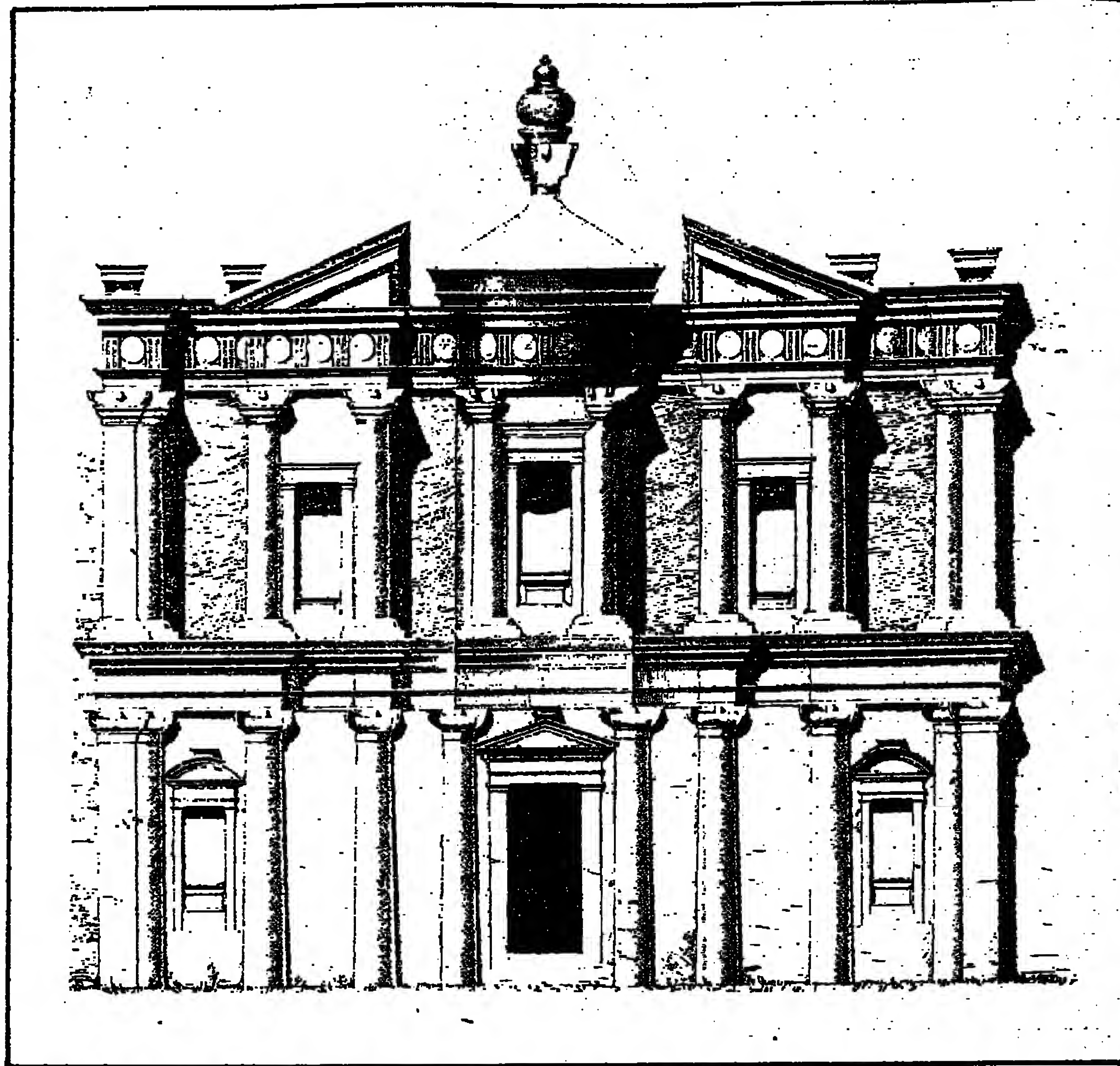
The Byzantine period in Jordan is a long and rich one. It is not surprising that Greek monks were still inhabiting El Deir in Petra well into the 13th century A.D. In fact, on the basis of archaeological surveys, the Byzantine period was one of the most densely populated and active times in Jordan's history. Virtually everywhere one visits in

Jordan, Byzantine influence is evident.

From distant desert forts in the east such as Qasr Burqa and Azraq, to the ancient Decapolis cities, cultural traditions from Byzantine Greece flourished. One of the biggest influences of the time was the religion of Christianity which was first adopted by the Greeks. After the conversion of Emperor Constantine to Christianity in 333 A.D., it spread rapidly throughout the Levant. Greek, the language of the New Testament, was the lingua franca of the eastern provinces in the Roman Empire, and with the establishment of the Byzantine Empire by Theodosius in 395 A.D., Greek became the dominant language used in trade, government and scholarship. It is no coincidence that so many Greek inscriptions are found in Jordan. Perhaps the most important of all are those on the mosaic map of Madaba which names the cities and geographic features in the Levant and are key for identifying the situation of Byzantine Jordan today. Most of the churches in Jordan were built during Byzantine rule and their remains are evidence for the great role Christianity had in the empire.

The end of the Byzantine Greek influence in the Levant was undoubtedly marked by a series of defeats by the Islamic armies led by Caliph Omar at Ajlun, Fahl and culminating at the famous battle of Yarmouk on 20 August 636 A.D./15 A.H. when the Byzantine army finally was broken. Jerusalem and Damascus fell soon after this. And in 678 A.D./17 A.H. the Arabs under Muawiyah even reached the shores near Constantinople itself, and threatened the very heart of the Byzantine empire. The city held, though, and the Arab conquest was halted. The outcome was peace between Greeks and Arabs, which has lasted ever since. As the Arab Nation stood on its own again, the Greek-Byzantine empire learned to respect it. Never again would Greeks attempt to dominate the Levant. In fact, over the centuries a new relationship developed between the two great nations.

In 706 A.D./87 A.H. Caliph Al Walid I commissioned Greek mosaic experts from Constantinople to decorate the great mosque he was building in Damascus. This was one of many examples of the close and symbiotic relationship the Greeks and Arabs



Ed-Deir (the monastery) at Petra, a classical Nabataean monument with clear Hellenistic architectural influences.

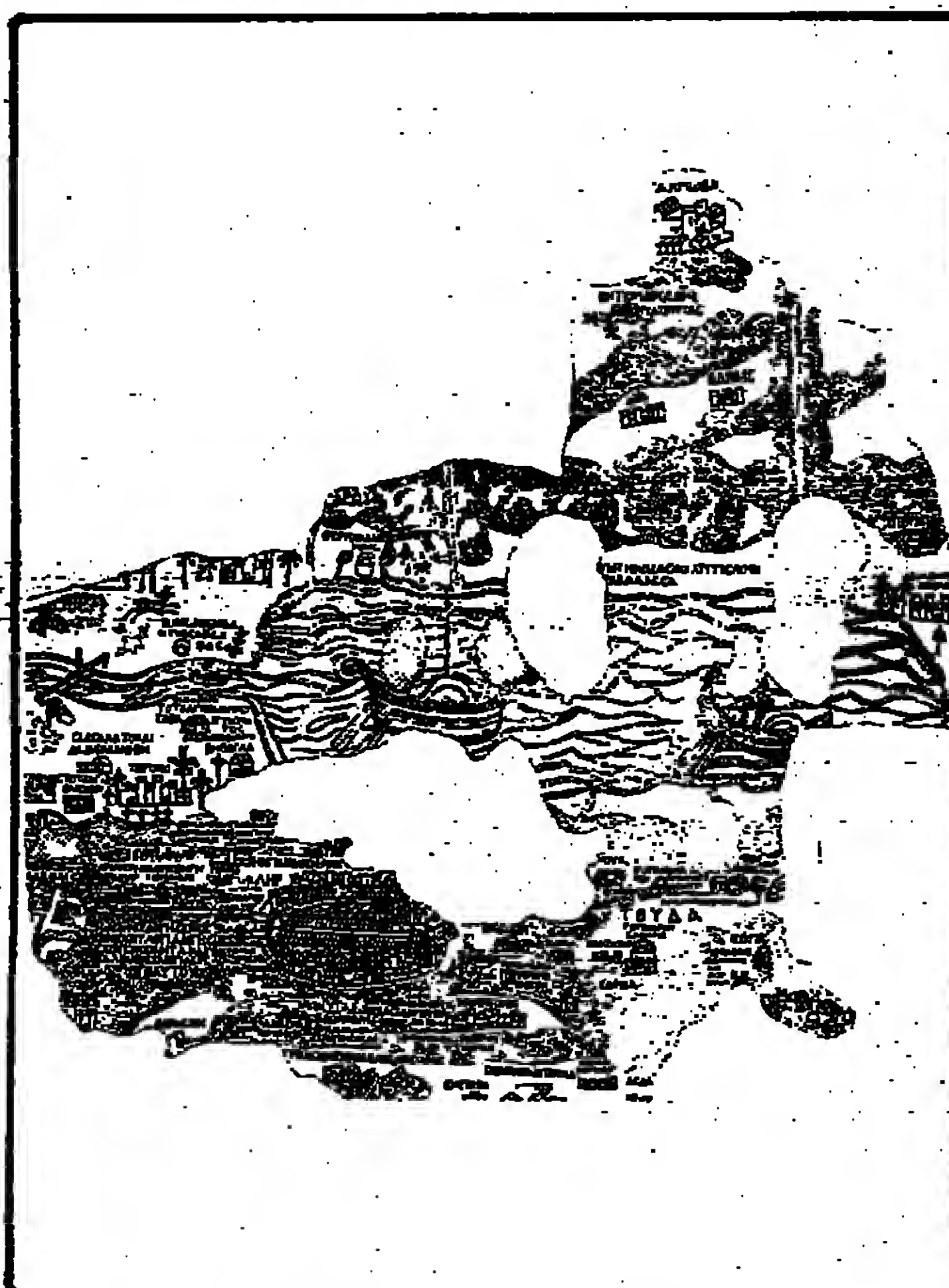
developed so soon after the retreat of the Byzantine armies from the Levant. Archaeologically, it is still difficult to divide the period of Byzantine influence and the beginning of Islam, namely the Umayyad period. Certain percentages of the population remained Christian with the oncoming of Islam and were tolerated in the Umayyad period.

Arabic translations of Greek classics such as Aristotle's "History of Animals," influenced 10th Century writers such as Khusaym. Other Greek scientific and medical works were also in vogue during the Abbasid period. And as Arab science and technology developed it in turn was transferred to Byzantine Greece. Since Greeks were not concerned about papal decrees from the west, they carried on lively trade with the Muslim world which stimulated a new relationship. But when Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453 A.D., the socio-political situation in Greece and in the entire Middle-East changed dramatically. Probably the most influential factor in modern Greek and Arab societies was the hundreds of years of Turkish occupation of the two great nations.

In the late 1800's some Greeks emigrated to Palestine from Greek islands and from Asia Minor. They came as physicians and merchants. Later they were

joined by technicians and engineers working on maritime projects in Acre and Lake Tiberias, and on the construction of the Hejaz railway. Some of these Greeks were eventually Arabised though others succeeded in Hellenising their spouses. But most maintained a Greek Orthodox community which survives today through the "paradosis" (al-trath) of churches and schools. During the British mandate much of the Greek community centred itself in and around Jerusalem, closely tied to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. But after the Jewish hostilities and the consequent wars, much of the Greek community dispersed to Greece, America and elsewhere. Some came to Jordan where they still live and work...

Today cultural agreements between Greece and Jordan tie the nations together through educational exchange programmes which allow many young people to learn about our respective countries and the many similarities we share. No people represent this deep-rooted understanding between our peoples better than the married couples which have united Greeks and Arabs. This happened during the hundreds of years of Hellenistic and Byzantine-Greek influence in Jordan, and continues today.



The Madaba Mosaic map

Phoenician	Arabic	Greek	Alphabet
ʾAlep	ا	Α	Alpha
Bet	ب	Β	Beta
Gamma	γ	Γ	Gamma
Delta	δ	Δ	Delta
He	ه	Η	Epsilon
Waw	و	Ω	Digamma
Zayn	ز	Ζ	Upsilon
Het	ح	Η	Zeta
Tet	ت	Τ	Theta
Yod	ي	Υ	Iota
Kapp	ك	Κ	Kappa
Lamed	ل	Λ	Lambda
Mim	م	Μ	Mu
Nun	ن	Ν	Nu
Samek	س	Σ	Xi
'Ayin	ع	Ε	Omicron
Pe	پ	Π	Pi
Sade	ص	Σ	Sin
Qop	ق	Κ	Qoppa
Resh	ر	Ρ	Rho
Shin	ش	Σ	Sigma
Tau	ط	Τ	Tau
		Φ	Phi
		Χ	Chi

Comparative table of Phoenician and earliest Greek alphabetical scripts.

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PROGRAMME ONE

14:00	Korean
14:20	Programme review
14:30	Cartoons
15:00	Children's series
15:30	Religious programme
15:50	Arabic comedy
16:15	Arabic play
17:10	Cooking programme
17:20	Religious series
17:30	Health and Fasting (Arabic)
18:00	Arabic comedy
18:30	Ramadan contest
19:10	Religious programme
19:30	Around the World
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:20	Arabic programme
22:00	Historical series
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Arabic series

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	des chiffres et des lettres
18:30	Lucky Luke (cartoon)
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties: Un DB de plus
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varities
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	No place like Home
21:10	Action!
22:00	News in English
22:30	Murder She Wrote
23:10	Rich Man, Poor Man

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07:30	News
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Just a Minute
10:00	Good Old Days
11:00	News Summary
12:00	30-Minute Theatre
13:00	News Summary
13:45	Pop Session Contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:15	Instrumentals
14:30	30 Minute Theatre
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:45	Instrumentals
17:00	Old Favourites
17:30	Pop Session

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07:00	Newsdesk 07:30 Virtuoso 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:00 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 New Ideas 08:40 Turning over new Leaves 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Countdown 10:00 World News 10:00 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 Journey Round My People 10:45 Network U.K. 11:00 World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 Tech Talk 11:30 Karajan at 80 12:00 World News 12:00 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup 12:45 The Seven Ages of Man 13:00 News Summary followed by Discovery 13:30 Sports International at 14:00 World News 14:00 News About Britain 14:15 Waveguide 14:25 A Letter from Scotland 14:30 Citizens 15:00 Radio Newsweek 15:10 Multitrack 1: Top 20 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:00 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network U.K. 16:45 Recording of the Week 17:00 Outlook, opening with 5-minute News 17:45 Virtuoso 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 A Jolly Good Show 19:00 World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 Omnibus 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News
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VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1360 & SW 720, 955, 1170, 11925 and 15210 Hz

07:00	News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 Music USA 10:45 News 11:00 Focus 19:30 Special English News & Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 Music USA 23:00 News & Editorial 23:15 Music USA Jazz 24:00 News 00:10 World Report
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

- * Art exhibition by Mohammad Boufis and Mounira Al Tunisi at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * Exhibition of photographs of Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

VIDEO FILM

- * "Heimat" parts 485 (German with English subtitles) at 8:30 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.

CULTURAL CENTRES

- Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
- American Centre .. Tel. 624590
- American Centre library .. 641520
- British Council .. 6361478
- French Cultural Centre .. 637009
- Goethe Institute .. 641993
- Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203
- Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049
- Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639771
- Haya Arts Centre .. 651195
- Husseini Youth City .. 6671816
- Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
- Y.M.W.A. .. 664251
- Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
- Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

MUSEUMS

- * "Children's Heritage and Science Museum" 1 Futuristic knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
- Feldore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
- Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
- Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by

19th Century orientalist artists. Mounting. Jabal Lweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

MARTYR'S MEMORIAL (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

THE AMMAN LEASE CLUB. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel. 7:30 p.m. Philadelphiya Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m. Philadelphiya Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel. 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

- St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.
- St. Ekekyan Church (Syrian Orthodox) Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweibdeh. Tel. 637440.
- De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.
- Terraviva Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.
- Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.
- Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence, Tel. 601359.
- Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.
- Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.
- St. Ekekyan Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.
- Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 675334.
- Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:15	Agaba (RJ)
10:30	Kuwait (RJ)
10:40	Cairo (RJ)
10:50	Jeddah (RJ)
10:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:10	Larnaca (RJ)
18:10	New York, Vienna (RJ)
19:00	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
19:05	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:15	Rome (RJ)
20:40	Isanbul (RJ)
20:45	Tripoli (RJ)
20:45	Rome (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

12:30	Baghdad (IA)
13:30	Moscow (SU)
14:30	Bucharest (RO)
14:35	Kuwait (KU)
15:45	Tripoli (LV)
16:00	Riyadh (SV)
17:35	Cairo (MS)
18:05	Rome (A2)
20:10	Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
01:00	Dubai (EK)
01:00	London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:00	Agaba (RJ)
11:45	Rome (RJ)
11:45	Tripoli (RJ)
12:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:45	Belgrade, Madrid (RJ)
13:00	Geneva, London (RJ)
13:45	Istanbul (RJ)
20:35	Larnaca (RJ)
20:40	Cairo (RJ)
21:15	Dhahran (RJ)
21:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:15	Damascus (RJ)
23:00	Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:15	Beirut (ME)
14:00	Baghdad (IA)

PRAYER TIMES

04:33	Fajr
05:30	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:35	Dhuhr
16:14	'Asr
19:13	Maghreb
20:37	Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Monday rates

Belgian franc	95.8/ 97.3
Dutch guilder	178.9/ 181.6
French franc	59.1/ 60.1
Italian lira	27.4/ 27.4
Japanese yen (for 100)	36.9/ 37.5
Swiss franc	56.9/ 57.8
U.K. sterling pound	242.7/ 246.5
U.S. dollar	628.3/ 638.5
W. German mark	333.4/ 338.3
	200.4/ 203.7

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

An increase in temperature is expected with northwesterly moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Agaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Agaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Dr. Musa Bashir	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qusaymeh	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Ambulance	198, 75111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood Bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	62090-3
Fire headquarters	661111
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896390/1
Electric Power Co.	636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771258
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	(08)53350/0

TAXIS

Kanakk taxi	666761
Grand Palace taxi	667079
Furat taxi	665186
Rashed taxi	622023
Commodore taxi	668186
Tayche taxi	620252
Fatal taxi	620251
San Rock taxi	813801

HOSPITALS

HOSPITALS	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn....	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn....	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642462
Al-Ahli, Abdali	636140
Malhar, J.	

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MA'AN PROJECTS: A delegation from the Ministry of Planning and the Cities and Villages Development Bank Monday visited Ma'an Governorate and inspected the present industrial situation in the governorate. The delegation also explored the possibility of setting up new industrial projects in the governorate in the future with support from the bank.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: The Public Transport Corporation (PTC) board of directors, during a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan, reviewed the corporation's services and means of developing these services. The minister called for studying the transport needs of all areas covered by PTC services as well as the needs of new residential areas.

IPU CHIEF: President of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) council met in Guatemala Monday with the Parliament's Secretary General Hani Khair, who is currently attending IPU meetings, and expressed to him the willingness to further strengthen the relations between the IPU and Jordan's parliament.

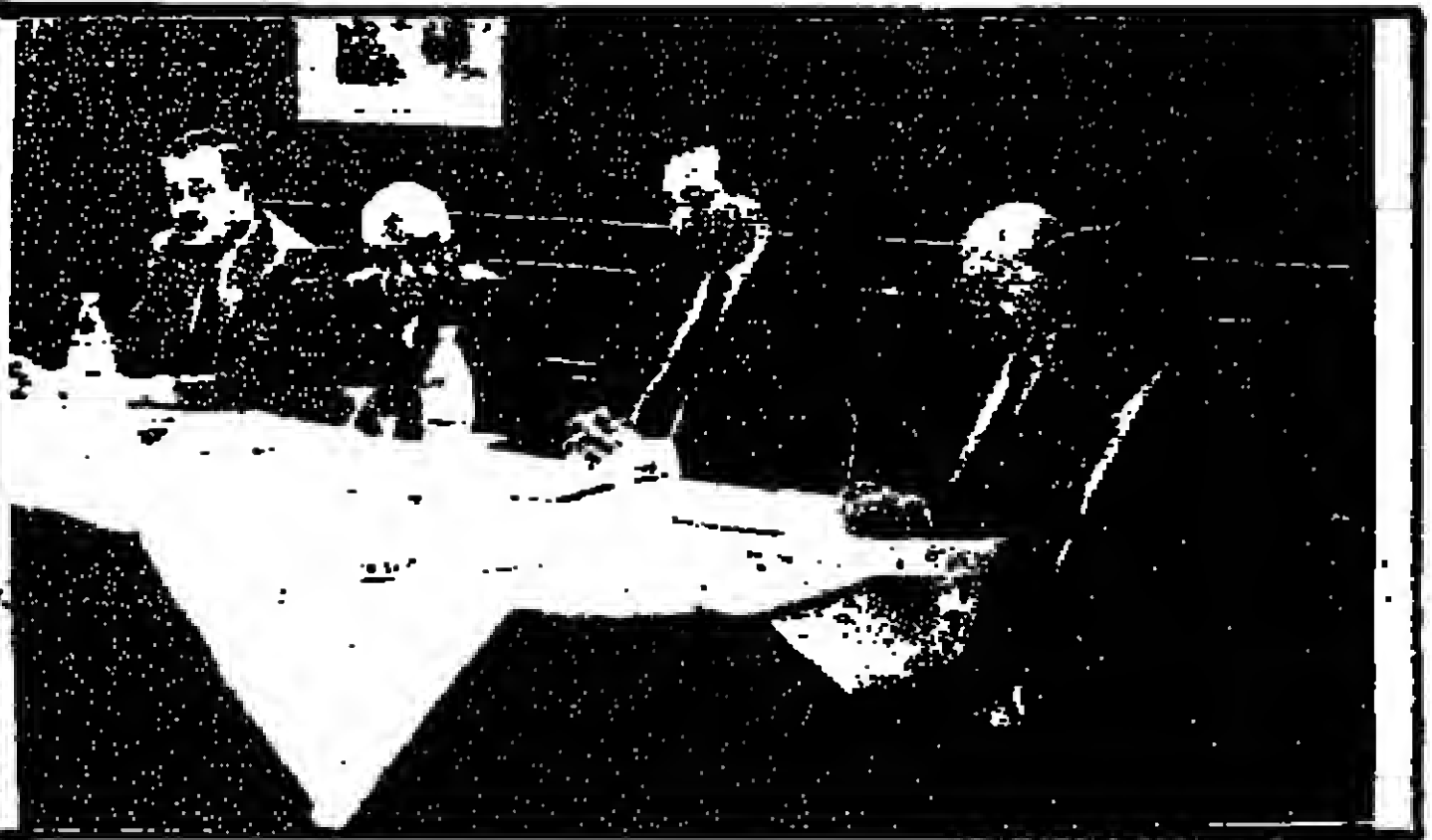
REDUCED TUITION: The dean of students affairs at the University of Jordan is currently studying the possibility of exempting some handicapped and poor students from about 90 per cent of the tuition fees. The university is also expected to study the possibility of allowing its students to study one semester at an Arab or foreign university.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY: The dean of the Business Administration College at Glasgow University in Britain has ended a three-day visit to the University of Jordan during which he discussed with a number of the faculty deans at the university, further boosting relations and cooperation between the two universities.

SUPPORT FOR UPRISING: The World Democratic Women federation has appealed to the international community and all peace loving nations to provide immediate material and financial aid to the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also called for solidarity with the Palestinians in their uprising.



The Jordanian Businessmen's Society's General Assembly holds meeting Sunday. (below) The meeting is chaired by the society's Chairman Mamdouh Abu Hassan (Petra photo)



Businessmen society studies future plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Society's General Assembly held a meeting here Sunday to review last year's activities and study plans for the future.

Meeting under its Chairman Mamdouh Abu Hassan, the general assembly heard an annual report, contacts made with corresponding societies in Arab and foreign countries and plans for expanding cooperation with economic organizations in Jordan and abroad.

Abu Hassan addressed the meeting, noting the development

of the society since its establishment in 1985.

The meeting elected three committees, two of them to deal with economic, research foreign and public relations affairs.

The third committee will undertake the task of promoting Jordan's trade with other nations, increasing foreign investments in Jordan, orienting the outside world on investment opportunities in the Kingdom, setting up a centre providing advisory services for investors, and encouraging an exchange of visits by businessmen between Jordan and other countries.

Jordan exports 350,000 labourers abroad

TRBID (J.T.) — Ministry of Labour and Social Development Secretary General Dr. Saleh Khasawneh said the Jordanian labour market is not only an exporter of manpower but also an importer.

Jordan exports some 350,000 labourers annually abroad and 25 per cent of labourers in Jordan are non-Jordanians, Khasawneh pointed out, adding that 40 per cent of Jordan's manpower are

working abroad.

Khasawneh, in a lecture, he delivered Sunday on the Jordanian labour market at Yarmouk University, said that the Jordanian labour market extended to beyond Jordan's geographic boundaries to cover the Gulf states and several industrial countries throughout the world.

Unemployment in Jordan, he added, was not general but rather restricted to some fields.

Jordan to need more than 152 million sq.m. of water

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will need between 152 million square metres to 238 million square metres of drinking water by the year 2000 according to studies made by a group of foreign consultancy firms.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily quoted informed sources as saying the average yearly consumption of drinking water for Greater Amman alone is around 39 million square metres, but they added that 44 per cent of this water is lost because of leaks in water lines. They called for measures to renew these lines.

The sources added that providing the necessary drinking water for Jordan also requires assurances on the quality of the water and its suitability for drinking.

A copy of a report on the water of the King Talal Dam, prepared by the British Times consultancy firm, and made available to the daily, indicated that the quality of the water is not suitable for drinking and can only be used for farming purposes.

The team which studied the water expressed fear that the quality of the water in the Wadi Arab Dam, which provides the King Abdullah Channel, might deteriorate.

They called for a programme for monitoring the quality of water in that dam continuously. They also recommended that the body of the dam be strengthened.

The experts stressed the need for more specialists in water affairs to monitor all different sources of water in Jordan.



Her Majesty Queen Noor tours the different sections of the new health centre at Hittin Refugee

Camp. (below) The Queen talks with mothers at the new centre (Petra photos)



NHF, Education Ministry discuss cooperation over Jubilee School

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Cooperation between the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the Ministry of Education, in offering education to gifted students, at the projected Jubilee School, was discussed at a meeting held at the NHF headquarters in Amman Monday.

A team from the ministry and another from the NHF led by its Director General, Mrs. In'am Al Mufri, discussed forming a technical team that would support the activities of the school which is

being sponsored by the NHF itself.

The model secondary school will be established in honour of His Majesty King Hussein's deep commitment to education, and in recognition of the great strides made by the country under his rule.

A design for the new school has been prepared by a local firm and the NHF was now involved in raising funds and recruiting staff for operating the boarding school which will accommodate 600

male and female students.

The school will provide outstanding students from Jordan and other Arab countries with the highest quality education.

As a laboratory school, it will contribute to the development of education throughout the region according to NHF sources.

The Jubilee School, the conception of which marked the King's 50th birthday in 1985, will offer extensive educational opportunities and allow for concentrated study.



Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni and Italian Ambassador to Jordan Luigi Amaduzzi sign a five-year agreement to promote tourism (Petra photo)

Jordan, Italy sign tourism pact

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Italy Monday signed a five-year agreement to promote tourism and to expand the flow of tourists between the two countries.

The agreement was signed in Amman by Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni and Italy's Ambassador to Jordan Luigi Amaduzzi.

The agreement provides for both parties to facilitate the establishment and operation in their respective territories of the appropriate representation and assistance offices, as well as the

exchange of information and circulation of tourist publications and advertising material.

Special attention is devoted to cultural tourism and the promotion of the remarkable historical and archaeological heritage of Jordan. In this context, youth tourist groups and the organization of work-camps and training courses in the field of archaeology will be encouraged.

Moreover, both parties will take appropriate action to improve and intensify the communication and transportation

means between the two countries.

The agreement represents a major step in the strengthening of the friendly and extensive relations already existing between Italy and Jordan in all fields.

Tourism from Italy to Jordan has increased in recent years. While in 1984 only 4,585 Italians visited Jordan, in 1987 Italian tourists in Jordan were almost 14,000 and a further significant increase is expected for the current year.

Jordan, Tunisia discuss cooperation

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordanian-Tunisian cooperation in general was discussed at a meeting here Monday between Jordan's ambassador Sata'an Al Hassan and the Tunisian Education Minister.

Hassan handed the minister an invitation to visit Jordan from his Jordanian counterpart Thouqan Al Hindawi.

Later Monday, the head of a visiting Jordanian educational delegation delivered a lecture on the Jordanian Ministry of Education's experiments in academic and vocational training.

Meanwhile, a Jordanian trade fair which opened in Tunis on April 1 was reported to have sold large quantities of goods to the Tunisian public.

On the first two days, the trade fair sold more than JD 2 million worth of products, according to the fair's director.

The 10-day fair, the third of its kind to be held in Tunis, is currently displaying a variety of Jordanian products ranging from plastic and leather goods to kitchens and pharmaceutical products.

Queen inaugurates new health centre at Hittin refugee camp

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A new health centre for the Hittin refugee camp in Marka, built with Canadian help, was inaugurated Monday by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The Queen unveiled a commemorative plaque at the entrance and then made a tour of the centre's sections, during which she was briefed on their functions and the medical services for the camp residents.

The centre, built and furnished with a special contribution of \$270,000 from the Canadian government, has an area of about 800 square metres and consists of 24 major rooms including a dispensary, a laboratory, a dental clinic and a room for inoculation services, dressing and eye treatment.

These are adjoined by a pre-fabricated building that serves as a waiting hall and which has sanitary facilities.

The centre provides primary health services as well as maternal and child health care for some 34,000 refugees and displaced persons living in the camp, according to health officials.

Some 500 patients visit the centre daily for examination or treatment, they said.

The Canadian government, a major contributor to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) which undertakes medical services for the refugees, had donated \$208,000 last year to fund the construction of a new general clinic in Baqa camp which was put into operation in September 1987.

Among those attending the ceremony with the Queen were Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, Zarga Governor Eid Qatameh, UNRWA officials, Canadian

Ambassador to Jordan Michael Bell and an audience of invited guests and refugee representatives.

UNRWA officials said that the new health centre replaces the one that had been in service for the last 10 years, and Canada's help was sought in this project since UNRWA lacked sufficient funds to set up the new centre.

They said that construction work at the centre took 12 months to complete, and was carried out by a local contractor under UNRWA's supervision.

They said five doctors, one dentist and 12 nurses are being employed to operate the services at the new centre, which include primary health care, maternal and child care, outpatient medical care, nutrition rehabilitation, health education, school health services and a community nursing programme.

The camp itself was established in 1968 on an area of 917 dunums, six miles north east of Amman, to accommodate Palestine refugees and displaced persons who left the West Bank and Gaza as a result of the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Initially it had a population of about 15,000. Now its population amounts to 34,000 persons, including 6,300 displaced persons, living in 3,994 shelters.

The number of shelters constructed by the agency within the camp perimeter was 3,244, following the receipt of special funds from the Federal Republic of Germany, the government of Ita-

ly, the Near East Emergency Donations Inc. (an organisation established in 1967 with ex-President Eisenhower as honorary chairman, donating funds received from U.S. business corporations and private citizens) and the Jordan Development Bank.

Also the Federal Republic of Germany has recently donated \$550,000 for physical improvements in the Marka camp and other camps.

Environmental services in the camp are carried out by 46 UNRWA workers who look after the camp's sanitation and the collection of refuse which is removed from the camp by municipality of Russefah on contractual basis.

A new water supply system and sewers have been completed by the Jordanian government. Now some 2,900 shelters have been connected to the new water supply network and 2,800 to the sewerage system. About 90 per cent of the camp shelters have electricity which is provided by the Jordanian Electricity Company against payment of fees.

Moreover, the Jordanian government, through the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, provides direct and indirect services to the camp residents, especially in respect of infrastructure services, in addition to providing relief assistance to the displaced persons and secondary education to the refugee children.

Besides its health services, UNRWA provides to Marka (Hittin) refugees, as is the case with the other refugee camps and concentrations, education and relief services.

In the camp, it has 10 schools (elementary and preparatory) catering for 9,500 refugee boys and girls supervised by a staff of 227 teachers.

Foreign Ministry announces transfers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Masri has carried out transfers among Jordanian diplomats currently working in Jordan and in embassies all over the world.

Following are some of the diplomats included in transfer: Councillor Maher Nashashibi, from the permanent delegation at the United Nations in New York, to the Jordanian embassy in Tunisia. Councillor Muhammad Shahenkri from Jordan to embassy in Bonn.

Councillor Atef Hallaseh from Jordan to embassy in Cairo.

First Secretary Omar Al Rifai from Jordan to embassy in Washington D.C.

First Secretary Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad from Embassy in

Tunis to permanent delegation at the United Nations in New York.

Second Secretary Lina Tougan from Jordan also to permanent delegation in New York.

Second Secretary Nayef Zaidan from Jordan to embassy in Bonn.

Second Secretary Nabil Masarweh from Jordan to embassy in Brussels.

Second Secretary Othman Alshara from Jordan to embassy in Rabat.

Second Secretary Sultan Qadhi from Jordan to embassy in New Delhi.

Second Secretary Fakhri Matalka from Jordan to permanent delegation at the United Nations in Geneva.

Third Secretary Hassan Jawar-

neh from Jordan to embassy in Manama.

Third Secretary Shaher Al Jabour from Jordan to embassy in Rome.

Attache Omar Belbeissi from Jordan to permanent delegation at the United Nations in New York.

Attache Mazin Al Hmoud from Jordan to embassy in London.

Attache Omar Al Nazif from Jordan to permanent delegation at the United Nations in Geneva.

Attache Imad Badran from Jordan to embassy in Washington.

Attache Ibrahim Obeidat from Jordan to embassy in Tunisia.

Attache Suhail Haddad from Jordan to embassy in Tokyo.

Infrastructure schemes acquire lion's share in Karak governorate

KARAK (Petra) — Nearly two thirds of allocations for the 1986 and 1987 projects included in the 1986-1990 five-year development plan in the Karak governorate are already spent, with the infrastructure schemes acquiring the lion's share, according to Karak Governor Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki.

Shobaki said that the government had allocated a total of JD 292 million for projects in the governorate which houses 121,000 people, living in six developmental districts: Karak, Oaser, Mazar, Aiy, Safi and Badi.

In the past two years, Shobaki noted, the Ministry of Education spent JD 4,371,250 on building schools, vocational institutes and school facilities in these six districts.

At present, he said, the ministry is involved in building workshops for Al Rabbeh Agricultural School and annexes to existing schools in Snakieh and other areas at the total cost of JD 1,374,109.

The Ministry of Education's

projects, he said, will help end the present two-shift school system and free itself from rented school buildings.

"In the past two years, the Karak governorate witnessed a transformation of telephone systems from manual to automatic systems at a total cost of JD 12.5 million, thus making available more than 9,000 lines for new subscribers," Shobaki noted.

He said the Ministry of Agriculture was helping local farmers increase their output and raise more livestock.

"The cultivable land within the governorate is estimated at 420,000 dunums of which 127,000 are being exploited mostly for the production of wheat, olives, vegetables and fruit trees," Shobaki noted.

The governorate, he added, has a total of 76 poultry farms, together producing more than three million birds annually. Farmers in the governorate own 280,000 heads of cattle, goats and sheep.

The government, he said, buys local production at subsidised cost to encourage farmers to increase their output, and purchases tomatoes for processing at its plant in Ghor Al Safi.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Shobaki noted, has recently distributed 25,000 saplings of olives, vines and other fruit trees to local farmers in a bid to encourage fruit production in large quantities especially in higher regions.

Referring to the role of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Shobaki said it spent a total of JD 2,694,716 on building new roads and maintaining others over the past two years.

"Thanks to the new projects, the governorate of Karak now has a modern network of main, side and agricultural roads, stretching nearly 9,000 kilometres in length," Shobaki noted.

He said the Health Ministry has been active in developing the local government hospitals transforming a health centre in Ghor Al Safi into a 25-bed hospital and setting up numerous health centres within the governorate.

Journalists visit UDD housing project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Urban Development Department (UDD) has organised a tour for local journalists of areas where housing estates had been set up for the benefit of low-income families.

The estates have been built at Um Tineh, east of Wadhat, where the local population had been dwelling in shantytowns set up on land not their own, according to UDD Director Hisham Al Zagha.

He said that the UDD conducted a comprehensive survey of the homes and population prior to carrying out its project, which was provided with all basic ser-

vices, such as running water, electricity and a health centre.

The housing estate at Um Tineh, he said, has a community and a vocational training centre for the benefit of the local people.

He said that 3,921 citizens benefited from the project which contains 523 units set up on 74 dunums of land.

Another area visited by the journalists was Qweismeh where 1,313 units were built by UDD on 363 dunums of land, now housing 8,962 citizens.

The Qweismeh project which also has all the basic services contains 82 stores, two commun-

ity centres, a vocational training centre, two schools, a health clinic and other facilities. This housing estate cost JD 20 million, according to UDD officials.

Following the tour, Zagha held a press conference, in which he said 34 families included in the Um Tineh housing estate are unable to pay for their land and homes, and the UDD is now studying means of helping them overcome this difficulty. He did not disclose further details.

Zagha said a new system has been introduced whereby beneficiaries can reduce the total amounts of interests due on their loans.

Dissident cleric blasts Khomeini

NEW YORK (R) — A top Iranian cleric has blasted Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and said Iranian clerics were moderates seeking rapprochement with the West. The cleric, Ayatollah Mehdi Rouhani, said in his latest edition of the magazine "Iranian spiritual leader" Khomeini is an extremist, a revolutionary. And if he has created a following abroad it is not because he is a man of God, but because he is an extremist who has no fear of the West.

"He realises that the majority of Iran's clerics have begun to turn against him because Khomeini's Islam does not correspond to the Islam we revere. He follows an Islam that promotes hostage takings and hijackings," Rouhani was quoted as saying.

"I can tell you that the majority of the Iranian clergy is moderate, and favours a rapprochement with the West. The real danger to (Khomeini's) regime comes not from the army or the United States or Iraq, but from the clergy. This is why if I was forced to return to Iran today I know I would be executed."

Last week the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), believed to hold most of the Western hostages in Lebanon, asked that France expel Rouhani in exchange for the release of French captives.

Rouhani told Newsweek an emissary from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's office had asked him if he would be willing to leave France.

"I am ready to leave France immediately, without bitterness, without reproach, if my departure can contribute to freeing all the hostages in Lebanon," Rouhani told Newsweek.

It also called on governments to set up a strategic food reserve on which any Arab country could draw and to protect and strengthen agriculture.

"Studies have shown that our food imports now stand at \$30 billion and this could reach \$200 billion in the next few years," one official of the 21-country federation said.

A federation founder-member, Baderuddin Al-Shallah, told Reuters that exporting nations might

Arab meeting urges food self-sufficiency

DAMASCUS (R) — The Arab World, which now imports around \$30 billion worth of food a year, must learn to feed itself. That was the message from 400 members of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, meeting in Damascus for their 30th conference.

Shallah, president of the Syrian Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the Arab World should have a joint strategy to beat obstacles to greater production.

He said the Arabs now imported a large slice of world food exports — 33 per cent of wheat and cereals, 32 per cent of poultry, 78 per cent of sheep and goat meat and 18 per cent of milk.

He said studies presented to the conference stressed the need to achieve food security and showed this was possible.

"First we have to achieve economic integration and then we will have all resources to achieve our objective," Shallah said.

Those resources include 33 per cent of world oil production and 52 per cent of known reserves, 30 per cent of phosphate production and more than 50 per cent of reserves, he said.

Shallah, 83, is a founder member of the Beirut-based federation, set up in Egypt in 1950.

He called for an Arab common market on European lines to promote economic integration and speed commercial and industrial development.

"We called for setting up the Arab market when the European Community was just an idea," he said.

"It hurts us as Arabs that Europe with all its differences and contradictions succeeded, while we were unable to achieve our objective."

Falange radio says captors killed Higgins

BEIRUT (AP) — Kidnapped U.S. Marine Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins has been killed by his pro-Iranian captors in South Lebanon, a rightist-controlled radio station reported Monday.

The Beirut-based Voice of Lebanon of President Amin Gemayel's rightist Falange Party, said Higgins was "killed and buried by his captors" in the southern Lebanese village of Sididigne.

The Voice of Lebanon has a record of frequent inaccuracies on hostage affairs in Lebanon. Monday's report about Higgins could not be independently verified.

The radio said the killing took place hours before militiamen of Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal movement captured Sididigne from Iranian-backed Hizbollah supporters, apparently to keep Amal from claiming credit for his liberation.

Amal and Hizbollah spokesmen in Beirut withheld comment.

The two groups have been at loggerheads since Higgins, 43, was abducted near the southern port of Tyre Feb. 17.

Sididigne, 14 kilometres south-east of Tyre, has been a Hizbollah stronghold before Amal crushed its fundamentalist rivals in a four-day crackdown early this month.

"It's the first time I hear about it," said Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with which Higgins was serving when he was grabbed. "But we'll check it out." He spoke by telephone from UNIFIL's headquarters in Naqoura on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Amal backs the presence of the U.N. peace-keeping force in predominantly Shiite South Lebanon, which is opposed by Hizbollah (Party of God).

Amal has charged that Hizbollah masterminded Higgins' abduction to undermine its control of predominantly South Lebanon.

Hizbollah, an umbrella for pro-Iranian extremist factions which hold most of the 22 foreign hostages in Lebanon, came out strongly in support of Higgins' kidnapping.

The abduction was claimed by a group calling itself the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth, which charged that Higgins used his position as part of U.N. peacekeeping forces to spy for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Both the United States and United Nations have denied the charge.

Amal spokesman had said their fighters found no trace of Higgins in any of the Hizbollah strongholds they have captured including Sididigne and Jibsheet, which is 50 kilometres east of Tyre.

There had been several Amal reports before the crackdown that Higgins was being held either at Jibsheet or Sididigne.

Timing of Iran-contra trial crucial for possible pardons

By Larry Margasak
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The timing of the Iran-contra criminal trial of Oliver North and John Poindexter could play a major role in determining public reaction to a possible pardon by President Ronald Reagan, experts say.

However, the experts disagree whether a pre-trial or post-trial pardon — if Reagan should decide to take such a course — would be more acceptable to the public.

Some of the university professors and senators interviewed by the Associated Press said pardons before trial would be more acceptable. This way, the prosecution would not get a chance to bring out potentially damaging evidence.

But others said pardons before trial would bring an immediate assumption of guilt, and they suggested that Reagan await a conviction if he wants to forgive the defendants.

If there is no trial or verdict by next January, according to this view, Reagan should leave office without taking action.

The issue is not merely an academic argument, because the trial date is a hotly contested pre-trial matter in the courtroom of U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell.

Independent counsel Lawrence Walsh said last week he would be ready for trial in July. But the defence lawyers sought a March 1989 trial date for North, a former National Security Council (NSC) staff member; former National Security Advisor Poindexter; and two men recruited by North, retired air force Major-General Richard Secord and his business partner, Albert Hakim.

The four face charges that they stole government property as they conducted secret arms sales to Iran and aided the Nicaraguan contras after the U.S. Congress had banned such assistance.

The 22-count indictment charges the four ran the Iran-contra affair as a broad criminal conspiracy to defraud the government and to cover up their actions. North, Secord, and Hakim are accused of enriching themselves in the process.

Taking the view that a pre-trial pardon would be the right course, Walter Dellinger, a Duke University law professor, said: "If the prosecution can prove the heart of this case, which is more about embezzlement than aiding the contras, pardons will cause a much greater storm (after trial)."

Dellinger added: "This may look like a very different case after trial than it did after the congressional hearings, one the public is far less likely to view charitably."

"Tougher to justify"

Senator Charles Grassley, a Republican who is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said pardons would be "tougher to justify" before trial.

The defendants would be "presumed guilty all the time" if pardoned before trial, Grassley suggested. If the trial had not begun when Reagan leaves office in January, Grassley said, the defendants would "have to rely on the good will of another president."

Reagan has not taken an official position on pardoning any of the defendants. On April 6, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said: "I have raised the issue with the president four or five times myself. I've heard it raised by others, and every time the president says the same thing, which is, 'I'm not discussing pardons.'"

Sen. Orrin Hatch, another Republican, said pardons would be easier before a trial to "spare America this pain" of reliving the Iran-contra affair in the courtroom. Hatch was a member of the Senate Iran-contra committee.

William Leuchtenburg, professor of history at the University of North Carolina, said the worst scenario for Reagan would be if a trial was under way at the time he's ready to leave office next January.

"That would create an all but impossible situation for a pardon," he said. "That would really produce a cry of outrage. It would particularly disturb the legal community by taking something away from the legal process, and undercutting the judge and jury."

Hassan II dispenses locust fighters from fast

RABAT (AP) — King Hassan II, acting in his role as religious leader of Morocco, issued a dispensation from the annual Ramadan fast to all people involved in the fight against the swarms of locusts invading North Africa.

Several years ago, the king also exempted soldiers fighting against Polisario guerrillas in the former Spanish Sahara from the daytime fasting obligations of Ramadan.

"We, Hassan Ibn Muhammad, Amir Al Mawla, authorize those who are waging the struggle against the locusts, specifically personnel of civil defence, civil and military air force crews and all those who are working at their sides, not to observe the fast during the month of Ramadan," the king declared in a religious decision Sunday night.

In announcing his decision, the king stressed that those fighting against the locusts "are acting in the same way as the soldiers stationed on our borders who are watching over the security and interests of the nation."

"We, Hassan Ibn Muhammad, Amir Al Mawla, authorize those who are waging the struggle against the locusts, specifically personnel of civil defence, civil and military air force crews and all those who are working at their sides, not to observe the fast during the month of Ramadan," the king declared in a religious decision Sunday night.

Economic woes fan discontent in Turkey

By John Owen-Davies
Reuters



Turgut Ozal

ANKARA — Swept back to power less than six months ago, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is today beset by growing discontent, reflected in opinion polls showing electors dramatically deserting his cause.

Last November, his Motherland Party won 292 seats in the expanded 450-seat parliament. The main opposition party won 99 seats.

Soundings of the electorate's views late last month showed a slump in support for the ruling party, with some putting it behind the main opposition Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP) for the first time.

The stumbling economy — with the effects of 70 per cent annual inflation on the country's 52 million people, and a growing foreign debt burden — is a central focus of general discontent. And Ozal faces trouble from organised labour and within the loosely-knit Motherland Party.

"Ozal has to tread a very narrow line if democracy is to thrive," one political source said. "There is no major alarm at the moment, just signals saying the economy must be put right."

Political analysts see no immediate threat to Ozal, an astute economic free-marketier who applied 12 months ago for Turkey to become a full member of the European Community (EC).

Bankers and economists largely blame Ozal for the present economic situation, saying he gave free rein to the economy before November's general election and a referendum that lifted bans on politicians blamed for the pre-1980 chaos.

"Ozal let the economy run free last year to help create a favourable atmosphere before the referendum and the election. Now the penalty is being paid," one banker said.

Since the election, Ozal has announced price rises of up to 100 per cent on state-run goods and services, including petrol, travel and food, mainly to cut a budget deficit which totalled 2.157 billion lira (\$1.72 billion) in 1987.

The latest increase was March 28 when the cost of petrol and petroleum products were increased by 23 per cent, the fourth rise in as many months.

Ozal, underlining his determination in dealing with the economy, told reporters this month: "We shall do whatever is necessary... if this means price hikes we shall do so. If it means (more) taxes we shall bring taxes."

"The government is at a loss in the face of galloping inflation," SHP leader Erdal Inonu told reporters. "If it goes on like this it will rise to three digit levels by the end of the year."

Foreign debt, currency

Apart from inflation, Turkey's foreign debt rose sharply last year to \$38.3 billion from \$31.33 billion in 1986, putting added pressure on the budget.

At the same time Turkey's lira has continued to fall against the dollar — to 1.250 to the U.S. currency compared with 751 at the beginning of 1987 — putting goods in some shops in Ankara and Istanbul out of the reach of many people.

The prices of imported furniture, cosmetics, clothes and electronic equipment are constantly rising because of the lira's depreciation.

An opinion poll in the mass-circulation daily Sabah showed the Motherland Party would win 24 per cent of the vote against 25 per cent for the SHP, itself hit by a leadership crisis. If an election were held now, more than 20 per cent were undecided.

A poll in the daily Hürriyet showed nearly 60 per cent of Turks believed they would be even worse off in 1992 than now.

Trade unions, seeking to retrieve some of the clout they had in the 1970s, plan mass strikes next month if demands, including raising the minimum wage of 74,500 lira (\$60) a month, are not met.

Political bickering

Talk about possible intervention in Turkish politics was fuelled by Motherland deputy head Mehmet Kececi after acrimonious parliamentary debates and opposition charges of government high-handedness.

Iraqis retake Fao town

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq also said it launched more missile attacks last Monday, firing two at Qom and one each at Tehran and Shiraz.

Iraq reported several people killed in the early morning attack on Qom. An Iraqi military spokesman said an Iranian missile hit Baghdad at 4:20 p.m. (1220 GMT), killing or wounding a number of civilians and destroying property.

Kuwait denies Iranian charge

Kuwait meanwhile dismissed as untrue Iranian allegations that Kuwait's Bubiyan Island was used by the Iraqi forces in their onslaught on Fao.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman cautioned that the Iranian allegations implied aggressive intentions against Kuwait.

"Kuwait has been watching with deep regret the allegations by the Iranian media about Bubiyan being used in launching military operations against Iranian forces in the Iraqi Fao peninsula," the spokesman said in a statement distributed by the Kuwait News Agency.

He said that "Kuwait has categorically denied it had allowed the use of a single inch of its territory in any respect of this tragic war" between Iran and Iraq.

The spokesman said the denial was "communicated anew" to the Iranian government through diplomatic channels during a meeting early Sunday between Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shabeh and Iranian chargé d'affaires Mohammed Farouhi.

He added that Kuwait was hoping "the Iranian media will discontinue these baseless accusations, the repetition of which are indicative of premeditated intentions by Iran to commit new aggression on Kuwait under such groundless pretext."

IRNA earlier quoted a war information headquarters spokesman as saying Iraq's alleged use of Bubiyan showed Kuwait was "practically siding with" Iraq in the war.

Tehran Radio quoted the spokesman as saying Kuwait had "breached good neighbourliness and put Bubiyan Island at the disposal of Iran."

"This act shows the blatant support of Iraq for the Iraqi regime," the spokesman said. "Obviously the Kuwaiti government only stands to lose from this hostile act."

Kuwait said Iranian gunboats attacked Bubiyan Island March 30 and wounded two Kuwaiti military personnel in what was the first direct involvement of the emirate's forces in the Iran-Iraq war. Iran denied that attack took place and Kuwaiti leaders tried to play it down, indicating that they wanted to defuse tension.

Israelis kill 3 more Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

17 Palestinians were killed. The Israeli army said 28 Palestinian refugee camps, towns or cities were either under curfew or closed to journalists.

Hospital officials said a teenage Palestinian girl was shot dead in Gaza city Monday during a protest march in the Zeitoun district on the last of three days of mourning declared by the Higher Islamic Council.

For the second successive day, journalists and cameramen were barred from entering most of the occupied territories.

Reports said two Palestinians were seriously wounded in the West Bank town of Jenin in a clash that began when Israeli occupation officials arrived to demolish illegally built houses.

In Jerusalem, police arrested several Arab students demonstrating on the campus of Hebrew University against the killing of Abu Jihad.

In Gaza City, a 30-year-old mother of six was killed as she tried to gather her children indoors because Israeli soldiers were clashing on a nearby street with protesters burning tyres, the woman's mother-in-law said.

Aidah Othman Totah, whose children range in age from nine months to 11 years, managed to get three inside and went out looking for the rest.

"She came back shouting, crying 'I was wounded,'" the mother-in-law, Farida Nimer Dib, told the AP in an interview in the family's three-room home.

"She fell on the floor and I held her in my arms... suddenly I saw blood coming out of her mouth. Then her arms dropped and she died," Dib said.

The woman was buried in a hastily arranged funeral attended by about 300 mourners who shouted threatening slogans like "stones are as strong as guns," told the AP. Soldiers used tear gas to disperse the crowd.

The army said soldiers shot and killed a 20-year-old Palestinian during a demonstration in the Rafah. Reports identified the victim as Mohammad Zereb.

The fatalities brought to 167 the number of Palestinians killed in four and a half months of the uprising, according to U.N. figures. Two Israelis also have been killed.

Israel issued closure orders to the weekly magazine al Awdah, published in English and Arabic. The occupation authorities claimed it was funded and directed by "terrorist" organisations.

The magazine was given until May 1 to appeal, said Elias Zaman, an Awdah's managing editor, who denied the allegations.

The magazine is published by the same Palestinians who ran the Palestine Press Service, a daily monitoring service which the government closed last month.

Abu Jihad to be buried in Syria

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli government.

Abu Jihad, who was in charge of commando raids against Israel and the PLO's support for the current Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, had been an exile since his early teens, when his family fled from Palestine.

He had a home in Damascus, where his parents still live.

The funeral plans prompted speculation that Abu Jihad's death might bring about a face-to-face meeting of Assad and Arafat. If this happened it would cap months of discreet contacts aimed at their reconciliation.

On Monday Arafat went with other members of the family to a Tunis hospital, where the assassinated military commander's body lay, to pay their respects, witnesses quoted by Reuters said.

Abu Jihad's family emerged weeping afterwards and police prevented newsmen from photographing them, and Arafat, the witnesses said.

U.S. 'complicity'

A senior PLO official meanwhile made a thinly-veiled accusation of U.S. complicity in the killing.

"It would not be strange that the U.S. administration is an accomplice," Bassam Abu Sharif, an Arafat adviser, told Reuters.

"Actually, our information is that when (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir visited Washington (earlier this year) he was given the green light."

U.S. condemns killing

The United States Monday condemned the assassination of Abu Jihad and said it had nothing to do with his murder.

"The United States condemns this act of political assassination," State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters.

"The United States government had no knowledge of nor was it involved in any way in this assassination," he added.

Despite his condemnation of Wazir's killing, Redman declined to brand it specifically a terrorist act.

"I've given you a definitive statement and I think that speaks very clearly," he said.

But he stressed: "Violence is not the solution to the problems of the Middle East."

U.S., Iranian forces clash

(Continued from page 1)

News Agency (IRNA) said the U.S. warships first struck the Sassan platform in the southern Gulf at 9 a.m. (0500 GMT). Twenty-three minutes later they attacked the Nasr platform off the nearby Sirri Island, it said.

"The criminal America, by attacking the economic installations of Iran at the Nasr and Sassan oil platforms... is becoming involved in a serious war with Muslim Iranians," Tehran Radio said.

The U.S. attacks seemed to send Iranian gunboats in the region on a rampage, attacking the oil facilities and commercial vessels at the Mubarak oilfield off the southern Gulf entrance of Sharjah, and hours later a Cypriot freighter sailing out from the United Arab Emirates with a load of fertilisers.

Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said an American helicopter also was fired upon during the raid on the platforms but was not hit. In addition, a press helicopter carrying an NBC television crew and an AP photographer was fired at but missed, and all occupants were reported safe.

AP photographer Norbert Schiller said the "Iranians fired at least half a dozen 50-calibre rounds and small arms fire" at the press chopper.

He said the Sirri-D oil platform, partly collapsed in the water and was still ablaze shortly before sundown. Sassan, he said, was badly damaged "but the main structure was still standing, and the fire was put out by five Iranian tugboats, which also fired at our helicopter."

Two Iranian warplanes tried to harass an American warship but were forced to turn tail in the face of missile fired by the vessel, shipping sources in Dubai reported.

They said that an Iranian patrol boat fired on but missed the U.S. cruiser Wainwright, one of the ships that attacked Sassan and Sirri-D. The U.S. frigate Simpson returned fire and sank the Iranian boat.

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AMMAN JORDAN

Aquino aims for 'economic miracle'

MANILA (R) — President Corazon Aquino said Monday she aimed to turn the Philippines into Asia's "next economic miracle" and said the economy was now her number one priority.

Economic recovery was more important than recapturing fugitive leader Gregorio Honasan and was an integral part of ending the 19-year-old communist insurgency, Aquino told a rare news conference.

Honasan "is still a priority but for me a higher priority is economic development," she said.

The Philippine economy grew by 5.7 per cent last year and is forecast to grow by between six and 6.5 per cent in 1988.

Clearly buoyed by her four-day trip to China and Hong Kong, Aquino said she would push ahead with a planned visit to Switzerland and Italy in June and hinted she might make other trips to help project a positive image of stability in the Philippines.

"The conditions for Philippine progress are nearly all in place," she said on her return late Sunday from her first trip outside the country in 18 months.

Diplomats and political analysts polled by Reuters rate Honasan, who led an almost successful army revolt against Aquino last August, as a major potential threat to Aquino while he remains at large.

But Aquino brushed the renegade colonel aside and said she was not afraid of taking risks.

"If you do not take risks there is no way for you to improve," she declared.

Aquino hailed the capture of three top communist rebel leaders as major breakthrough and said the government would follow up through military drives and economic initiatives.

"It has to be both a military and an economic solution to the problem," she said.

The Philippine president, who has struggled through two years of coup plots and political turmoil to reintroduce democracy after she replaced ousted strongman

president Ferdinand Marcos in early 1986, gave few details of her economic recovery programme.

"We have so much to do to catch up with our neighbours," she said of her impoverished country.

Aquino said she wanted to boost the Philippines to a more prominent role in South East Asia and said its return to democracy was an example to the world.

She hailed local businessmen for showing increasing willingness to keep their money in the country, giving a lead to "the rest of the world which watches and waits to see if Filipinos will show confidence in this administration."

The foreign media, she said, should shift its focus from coup rumours and the insurgency "to give us a boost, to help us in our efforts of nation rebuilding."

Aquino did not say if continuing to host two major American military facilities would form part of a Philippine bid for a greater regional presence.

"We will respect the bases agreement until 1991 (when the



Corazon Aquino

25-year-old agreement runs out) and after that will be a different matter," she said.

Several politicians have recently called for a national referendum on the future of Clark air base and Subic naval base but Aquino would not give her own opinion on a poll, saying it was a matter for congress.

Refinery installs fuel tanks, awards tender

ZARQA (Petra) — Most of the fuel and crude oil tanks to be added to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co.'s (JPRC) facilities have been installed and the company has awarded a tender to a local company for bottling liquid gas, the company's general manager announced Monday.

He said that 90 per cent of the work on installing the tanks, which have a total capacity of 247,000 cubic metres, has been completed and the overall cost was expected to reach JD 3.571 million.

The director said that the local company has been entrusted with bottling liquid gas in Amman and in Irbid at the cost of JD 3,896,146.

According to the director, the company is currently studying a plan to increase the JPRC's capacity of absorbing more crude oil from the Tapline Company of Saudi Arabia through building an

additional pumping station and setting up a storage facility for more quantities of oil products in Aqaba.

The company also plans to set up a station for loading and unloading fuel tanker trucks and installing heat control facilities at the gas cylinder plant, the director added.

He said the company now plans to develop its present water drainage systems and build retaining walls around the company's installations.

According to the director, the JPRC's production of oil products last year amounted to 2,404,533 tonnes, an increase by six per cent over the previous year's production.

He said that the company's sales of oil products last year amounted to 2,972,260 tonnes, registering four per cent increase over 1986's figures.

JAMPCO chief explains responsibilities, policies

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) Director General Ghazi Abu Hassan said Monday that the company has no role to play in fixing the volume or the prices of vegetables and fruits in local markets.

The Jordanian government has confined the company's authority to dealing with potatoes, onions, garlic and apples in addition to purchasing the surplus of locally produced tomatoes for processing at its plants, Abu Hassan said.

The company, he noted, tries to make these commodities available in the local markets all the time and at reasonable prices, taking into account the interests of the producers and the consumers at the same time.

Abu Hassan said that JAMPCO received a total of 5,200 tonnes of potatoes during the current agricultural season and paid for them at subsidised rates to give encouragement for local production.

The company, he added, has stored these quantities of potatoes for a time of scarcity.

Now, he said, potatoes are being sold at the rate of 130 fils per kilogramme for the consumers.

Referring to garlic, Abu Hassan said that the company has received no quantities from local farmers and left them the option of selling their crop in the local markets but the company had to offer for sale its own imported quantities of garlic by the end of February at a time when local production was low.

Garlic is now available in the local markets at the rate of 300 fils a kilogramme, Abu Hassan noted.

He said onions are also sufficiently available in the local markets at the rate of 170-200 fils a kilogramme for the consumers and the company has not offered for sale any of its stored onions since March to allow the local farmers to market their fresh products directly in the local markets.

Abu Hassan noted that JAMPCO has made available two types of apples in the Jordanian markets. The Lebanese type, sold at 300 fils a kilogramme, and the French type, sold at 420 fils a kilogramme.

He said that the local markets currently have insufficient amounts of tomatoes but this is due largely due to the delay in the ripening of the new crops because of the weather conditions.

Gulf clashes boost spot oil price

LONDON (R) — The price of North Sea oil hit four-month highs Monday after fresh hostilities in the Gulf.

Brent, the most widely-traded blend on the free or "spot" market, traded more than 50 cents a barrel higher than Friday's close at \$17.60 a barrel for June loading, market sources said.

This was its highest since the start of the year.

The rise was prompted by news that U.S. warships and helicopters Monday attacked two Iranian oil platforms in the Gulf in retaliation for a mine blast which crippled a U.S. frigate.

Last week, prices powered ahead after jumping more than \$1 on market speculation that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC would agree on production cuts when they meet in Vienna next week.

On April 9, OPEC's price monitoring committee announced it would meet with several non-OPEC countries to discuss ways of stabilising weak world crude oil prices.

In early March, the price of Brent dipped to a 16-month low beneath \$14 a barrel because of high stocks and over-supply on the world market.

U.S. energy official sees nothing dramatic in oil meeting

In Singapore, U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington said Monday a meeting of world oil producers called this month in Vienna is unlikely to achieve anything dramatic.

"The meeting is more of a psychological event and we will not see dramatic changes on the

market," he told a meeting of foreign correspondents.

On the future price trends, Herrington said: "There will be small ups and downs in oil prices, and if anything I think there is a downward pressure on the oil market."

Oil industry sources said they expected the Vienna meeting would help to stabilise prices which had fallen steadily since the start of this year.

Herrington said there was "a lot of oil around." Many countries must sell a certain volume of oil, such as Nigeria and also Iran and Iraq, to finance their eight-year oil war.

Herrington said the surplus situation was unlikely to change in the short-term.

"I can't think of a cartel that has been successful (in deciding prices) without the cooperation of the buyers," he said.

USSR ranks highest importer of Saudi wheat

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — The Soviet Union purchased 172,000 tons of wheat from Saudi Arabia during the first quarter of this year, placing the country at the top of the kingdom's wheat importers.

This represents the largest single share of the country's wheat exports of 576,000 tons.

According to the Saudi ministry of agriculture and water, demand for Saudi wheat early this year remained high. It added that all quantities, except a load of 67,000 tons for the Soviet Union, had already been shipped to their destinations.

The ministry noted that Indonesia ranked the second highest importer taking 62,000 tons during the period, followed by China 52,210 tons.

Land reclamation harms agriculture in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — Land reclaimed from shallow Gulf waters has radically altered the face of this cosmopolitan island state — but at a price.

A building and reclamation boom sparked by oil wealth in the 1970s has left behind graveyards of dead palm forest and hit an

underground water lifeline to the island's crops.

The rising water table, brought on by the addition of large chunks of coastal land, also threatens to engulf 5,000-year old ruins and a 16th century Portuguese fort.

Government officials say the overall effects of reclamation —

which added 14 square kilometres of land to this small island — were positive, because it made room for a rapidly expanding population of 420,000.

But they concede the multi-million dollar projects happened rapidly and piecemeal, creating unforeseen problems.

"The boom came so fast no one plan could cope," said Habib Hassan, head of the housing ministry's planning directorate.

"It brought lots of things — money, ambition and development of the infrastructure needed for our society. But people looked at the locality, not the totality of the situation," he told Reuters.

Most of the multi-story office blocks, government buildings and five-star hotels which serve the island were built on land which two decades ago did not exist.

So was its drydock, central market and many embassies and

apartment blocks. Two man-made islands form part of a 25-kilometre causeway linking Bahrain to the Saudi mainland.

Harm to environment

But environmental officials say dredging and reclamation wreaked havoc on both marine and land life, churning up layers of silt in the sea and blocking the natural drainage of water from coastal farms and palm forests.

"Reclamation has destroyed most of Bahrain's mangrove swamp areas which are vital nursery grounds for shrimp, small fish and birds," said American Walter Vreeland, adviser to Bahrain's Environmental Protection Agency.

He said the expansion boom in the last 1970s probably also killed hundreds of date palms now standing desolately near Tubli Bay on the north-east coast.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.8943/53	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2300/10	Canadian dollar
	1.6610/20	Deutschemarks
	1.8630/40	Dutch guilders
	1.3725/35	Swiss francs
	34.75/80	Belgian francs
	5.6400/50	French francs
	1234/1235	Italian lire
	124.20/30	Japanese yen
	5.8500/50	Swedish crowns
	6.1540/90	Norwegian crowns
	6.3965/4015	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	458.00/458.50	U.S. dollars

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for April 18, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	76892	JD 125757	118
Top three companies:			
National Steel Industries	16550	JD 45463	11
Arab Bank	200	JD 22800	4
Jordan Cement Factories	12447	JD 12946	8
Parallel market:	3410	JD 1878	—
Developments bonds:	—	—	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures	—	—	—

WORLD FINANCIAL MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices closed higher in this trading, despite early nervousness and fears of follow-on selling from Friday's solid loss. The All Ordinaries Index rose 13.7 to 1,450.7.

TOKYO — Prices closed sharply lower in moderate trading on concerns over Wall Street's plunge last week. The Nikkei index fell 222.12 to 26,671.45.

HONG KONG — Prices closed sharply lower on mounting afternoon selling pressure in sympathy with the weakness in Tokyo. The Hang Seng Index fell 46.99 to 2,551.96.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed marginally lower on lack of follow-through buying and sporadic profit-taking in lethargic trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index slipped 2.72 to 930.72.

BOMBAY — Market closed for religious festival. Reopens Tuesday.

FRANKFURT — Prices edged up from a lower opening to close mixed but turnover was low as most investors remained sidelined. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, was up 3.5 at 1,389.8.

ZURICH — Market closed for local holiday.

PARIS — Prices were firmer but off the day's highs in view of Wall Street's lower opening. The 30-share bourse indicator was up by 0.07 pct.

LONDON — Prices lost ground after the Bank of England disappointed the market by not signalling a cut in British base rates. The FTSE-100 Index at 1438 GMT was up 9.5 at 1,788.1.

U.S. steps up agricultural export subsidies

WASHINGTON (R) — Stimulated by strong demand for U.S. farm products abroad and by a trade policy designed to bring competitors to the bargaining table, the United States has been subsidising crop exports at a blistering rate.

This year has seen a sharp increase in U.S. farm exports through a subsidy programme that gives exporting companies government-owned commodities to compensate them for offering grain at a discount to their overseas buyers.

The United States has given \$1.8 billion worth of commodities to exporters who made \$4.15 billion in grain sales since the programme began in June 1985.

More than 60 per cent of the business has come since October 1987.

Last week alone, the United States offered one million tonnes of subsidised wheat to the Soviet Union, and two million tonnes to China.

Most of the subsidies have been for wheat, which faces more market competition than corn. About 90 per cent of U.S. wheat and wheat flour exports this year have been subsidised.

The subsidies are a major factor behind a projected 10 per cent increase in U.S. farm-export volume this year, to 142.5 million tonnes.

A combination of factors has fuelled the heavy activity.

The United States for the moment is the only major wheat exporter with enough good-quality wheat to meet demand. "The United States is kind of in the catbird seat," said Randy Russell, an agricultural consultant who represents several major grain exporters.

The European Community had a poor quality crop in 1987. And Canada and Australia are essentially sold out, industry sources said.

Demand from major buyers has been strong.

The Soviet Union used much of the poor-quality wheat crop it grew last year as animal feed, then went abroad for milling wheat, said Winston Wilson, president of U.S. Wheat Assoc.

China reportedly has been driven by strong domestic demand into the world wheat market. India is expected to seek subsidised wheat to help recover from a severe drought.

Moreover, the United States remains determined to use the subsidies to keep pressure on the European Community's (EC) own farm programme.

The United States hopes to persuade the EC to agree on farm subsidy reductions at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The U.S. subsidies have the effect of forcing world prices lower and causing the EC to spend more on its farm supports.

"We're challenging the European Community and we intend to do so until we get an agreement," said an agriculture department trade official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

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Dukakis-Jackson battle down to the wire in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — The Democratic contenders thundered into the home stretch of the New York primary campaign Monday, spurring on their supporters in a contest that could carry considerable weight in deciding which of them will win their party's presidential nomination.

"Too close to call," blared a New York Daily News headline. A poll published by the newspaper Sunday, along with other surveys, indicated Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis was ahead of Jesse Jackson, with Senator Albert Gore Jr. trailing.

But the polls suggest Dukakis' lead has narrowed, and New York Governor Mario Cuomo said he "wouldn't be surprised" by a Jackson victory. Observers said turnout could be the crucial factor.

"The race is getting closer and turnout is the key," said New York pollster Lee Miringoff. He said a low turnout would favour Jackson, whose supporters are seen as generally being more fervent than those of the other candidates, and thus more likely to follow through and vote.

Dukakis was staging a get-out-the-vote rally in New York City Monday with cousin Olympia Dukakis, who won an Academy Award last week for her role in the movie "Moonstruck."

Gore was making a series of subway stops with a big-name backer, New York Mayor Edward Koch, who has made a

splash with harsh attacks on Jackson. On Sunday, Koch told the ABC Broadcasting Network that Jackson, when under stress, was "not capable of telling the truth."

Jackson was holding final-day rallies in New York City. Polls by the Washington Post-ABC News and USA Today-Cable News Network indicated the race was becoming tighter.

The Post-ABC poll, based on interviews Friday and Saturday nights and published Monday, showed Dukakis with 46 per cent support, Jackson with 40 per cent and Gore with 11 per cent.

The survey, with a margin of error of 8 percentage points, was based on telephone interviews with 183 registered Democrats who said they planned to vote in the primary.

The USA Today-CNN survey taken Friday, Saturday and Sunday found Dukakis with 46 per cent support, Jackson 34 per cent and Gore still far behind at 9 per cent. The survey questioned 846 registered Democrats who said they were certain to vote Tuesday and had a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

Dukakis and Gore marched Sunday in a "Salute to Israel" parade, while Jackson held a meeting with community leaders that was set up by a prominent Jewish supporter. An estimated 25 per cent of New York Democrats are Jewish, and issues concerning Israel have loomed large in the primary campaign.

Dukakis heads into the New York contest with a fresh victory to his credit. In Arizona's weekend caucuses, he bested Jackson by a 3-2 margin in the Saturday contest in that southwestern state, picking up 22 delegates to Jackson's 14. Gore got none.

The Massachusetts governor has pulled well ahead of Jackson in the national delegate race, with 872.15 to Jackson's 738.1. Gore has 417.55. To nominate, 2,082 delegates to this summer's national convention are needed.

The New York primary, with its 255 Democratic delegates, is certain to shake things up. And afterward, the Democrats head directly into two other big-state races — the Pennsylvania primary, one week after New York's, with 178 delegates at stake, and Ohio's primary, one week later, with 159 delegates.

On the Republican side, Vice-President George Bush has a virtual lock on his party's nomination, but he was campaigning anyway in Ohio Monday, with a trip to Pennsylvania scheduled Tuesday. He is likely to clinch the 1,139 delegates needed to nominate within the next few weeks.

Afghan guerrillas hold 'cabinet session'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan guerrillas held the first "cabinet meeting" of a provisional government Monday in a move diplomats described as a bid to unify their seven-party alliance.

"The first cabinet session of the provisional government... was held today," the Pakistan-based Islamic Unity of Afghanistan Mujahideen, fighting to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul government, said in a statement.

Diplomats said the wording of the statement suggested that it was not an official proclamation of a provisional government, although it indicated such a move was near.

The alliance earlier this year proposed a transitional government headed by U.S.-educated engineer Ahmad Shah and said it would be composed mainly of guerrillas and refugees, with only a 25 per cent share for "other Muslims in Afghanistan."

It has rejected an invitation by President Najibullah to form a coalition government of national reconciliation and has vowed to continue the nine-year-old war until he is toppled.

Monday's statement said the meeting was presided over by Shah, deputy leader of the Itri-had-I-Islami guerrilla group, and the session was inaugurated by Alliance Chairman Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

"In this session questions relating to the formation of the provisional government and its sundry aspects were discussed," the statement said.

A diplomat said some guerrilla leaders wanted appointments to the provisional government to be approved by their military commanders inside Afghanistan before it was proclaimed.

"The meeting shows the Mujahideen are organising themselves and sends a message that they are able to agree on their own government, something they have been unable to do for eight years," one diplomat said.

In another development, Sunday, a senior Pakistani politician accused President Muhammad Zia Ul Haq of seeking to nullify the U.N.-mediated Afghan settlement.

Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the left-wing Awami National Party (ANP), told a news conference that neither Zia nor the Pakistan-based Afghan rebels wanted Soviet troops to leave Afghanistan.

"They will have their stipends stopped if the Russians leave," Wali Khan said.

Wali Khan's criticism followed statements by Zia and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani that Islamabad would not drive out the rebels.

"This way Zia is nullifying the accord," he said.

Italian police widen scope of bomb enquiry

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Italian police believe a known Middle East guerrilla worked with a Japanese explosives expert in the car bombing which killed five people outside a U.S. servicemen's club in Naples last Thursday.

Detectives in Naples told reporters Sunday night they had fingerprint identification of the man, who was seen near the club in the port district shortly before the bombing, but were making future checks before releasing his name.

Naples police sources said the suspect was known to international anti-terrorist police and was thought to belong to the Islamic Jihad group operating from Lebanon.

Two of the several claims of responsibility for the blast, which came on the second anniversary of the 1986 U.S. bombing raid on Libya, were made by groups using the name Islamic Jihad.

Police last week issued an international arrest warrant for Japanese Red Army suspect Junzo Okudaira, whom they alleged planted the car bomb possibly on behalf of a Middle East group.

Okudaira, an explosives expert, is already wanted in Italy for a crude grenade attack against the U.S. embassy in Rome in and

a car bomb in a street alongside the mission in June 1987. No one was injured then.

Naples detectives have also named a second alleged Japanese Red Army guerrilla, Fusako Shigenobu, who is wanted for questioning over the attack but they have yet to issue a warrant for her arrest.

American FBI investigators arrived in Naples over the weekend and a Japanese anti-terrorist expert was expected in the southern Italian city Monday.

Italian police said the U.S. detectives were trying to establish whether there was a connection between the Naples bombing and the arrest in New Jersey last week of another Japanese Red Army suspect, Yu Kikumura, who was found with three bombs on the back seat of his car.

Police earlier said they thought the members of the command group had probably left Italy immediately after the bombing.

But Naples anti-terrorist police chief Romano Argenio told reporters Sunday they could still be in the country.

"They had little time to escape the country. We had Okudaira's name by mid-June. Thursday and informed all customs posts, airports and sea ports," Argenio said.

Soviets agree INF bans exotic arms

NEW YORK (R) — The Soviet Union has told the United States it agrees that the pending treaty on medium and shorter-range missiles bans futuristic weapons, the New York Times reported Monday.

The Soviet statement came in a recent letter from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in an apparent effort to help gain quick U.S. Senate approval of the treaty that would eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces.

According to U.S. administration officials familiar with the letter, the newspaper quoted Shevardnadze as saying:

"I would like to confirm to you once again that the Soviet side's understanding of this question is the same as that of the U.S. side. The definitive view of the Soviet side is that the treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles bans these two classes of missiles however equipped, nuclear or any non-nuclear."

The Senate Armed Services Committee said in a March report it was not clear whether the accord barred possible new types of exotic weapons, such as medium-range cruise missiles that destroy their targets by laser beams or other futuristic means, instead of exploding warheads.

Senator Robert Byrd, the Democratic majority leader, said this was a major issue and he would not allow the treaty to come to the Senate floor until it was resolved.

To ease Senate concerns, Secretary of State George Shultz sought clarification of the issue when he met Shevardnadze in Geneva Thursday.

Soviet Ambassador to Washington Yuri Dubinin delivered Shevardnadze's letter Friday to the State Department, which said that Moscow agreed with the administration's view that weapons that destroy targets by futuristic means are banned.

Senate aides say they expect the treaty to come up for floor vote in early or mid-May, the newspaper said.

Contras reject Sandinista plan

MANAGUA (AP) — Contra rebel leaders rejected a proposal by the Sandinista government to sign a permanent ceasefire immediately and then hold peace talks to bring an end to the more than 6-year-old war.

The rebel leaders described as "dangerous" the government plan, which was offered Sunday during the third day of ceasefire discussions, the first held in the capital of Managua since fighting broke out.

Despite the rebuff, the two sides returned to the bargaining table and talked late into the evening at the Camino Real Hotel on the outskirts of Managua.

In turning down the government plan, the contras said the Sandinistas must take steps — or at least guarantee them during a truce — to return Nicaragua to democratic, elected rule.

"We reject the Sandinista proposal because it speaks only of ceasefire and no other issues, such as the true democratisation of Nicaragua," said Adolfo Calero, head of the rebel delegation.

"For us, the permanent truce should come about simultaneously with the process of democratising Nicaragua, and that is why the Sandinista proposal is a regression," said Calero.

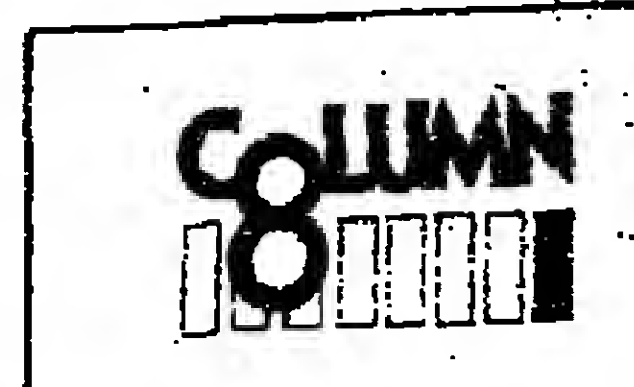
"It is dangerous, said another contra leader, Alfredo Cesar. "It does not mention how the ceasefire will be implemented."

Blast rocks Jewish centre in Frankfurt

FRANKFURT (AP) — A powerful bomb blast heavily damaged Frankfurt's Jewish community centre early Monday, and a city prosecutor's spokesman said a connection to the weekend assassination of Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir was possible.

A second — and apparently related — bomb blast gutted the office of the Saudi Arabian Airlines and damaged nearby buildings, including the Air Canada office.

No one was injured, and there were no immediate claims of responsibility for the blasts, which caused several hundred thousands marks in damage.



Moscow opens up to Dali

MOSCOW (AP) — The phantasmagoric forms of Salvador Dali's work have been allowed out of their "zone of silence" and put on display for the first time in the Soviet Union. Irina A. Antonova, director of the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts where the exhibit opened over the weekend, said Dali's work and that of other surrealists had been off-limits until the "glasnost" policies of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "The creative work of the surrealists, including Dali to some extent, belonged to a zone of silence of such times of art that were closed until recent times," Antonova told a news conference. The predominant ethos of Soviet art has been "socialist realism," which aims at ennobling and edifying its viewers. By contrast, Dali's works present disturbing images wrenched from the subconscious such as melting watches and deformed animals. Before Gorbachev, Soviet media blasted the Spanish artist's works as decadent and degenerate and refused to publish any reproductions of his work. "Very many blank spots in literature, art and cinematography are being opened for our audiences," she said. "And I would assume that the work of Dali now should be placed in that context."

Use gloves, please

BOSTON (R) — Embalmers' creams that make corpses look more lifelike can make the lives of those who apply it more miserable, according to doctors. Describing the symptoms as the "Embalmers' Curse," doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston say they include impotence, a gradual loss of sex drive, shrinking testicles, reduced beard growth and enlarged breasts. Dr. Joel Finkelstein and his colleague, who found the symptoms in a 50-year-old mortician, say they believe they have also found the cause. Writing in Thursday's edition of the New England Journal of Medicine, the doctors say the chemicals used in embalming, specifically the creams that help corpses look more lifelike, may contain compounds that act like the female hormone estrogen. Although the creams' manufacturer recommended that gloves be used, the mortician never did. When he stopped using the creams, the problem disappeared. The Finkelstein group says morticians should be made aware of the potential hazard and should wear gloves when using embalming creams.

Jarre plans big

LONDON (R) — French composer and electronic music wizard Jean-Michel Jarre plans to stage the world's biggest concert in London with an audience of two million people. A spokeswoman for Jarre said last week the concert would take place on Sept. 24 in the Thameside area of the Docklands, where London's derelict docks are being redeveloped as a residential and business district. Tickets for the show, which will feature new music written specially for the event, will go on sale this week, she said. The concert will cost an estimated £5 million (\$9 million) and will include a visual display visible for miles across London. Jarre, who has sold more than 32 million albums, has performed live just four times, including once in his hometown of Lyon, which was attended by half the 1.2 million population of France's second largest city. Jarre, who was the first Western musician to perform in Peking in 1981, gave a record-breaking concert in Houston last April to mark the 150th anniversary of the state of Texas. More than one million people attended the two million dollar sound and light show, the largest audience at a concert.

Undies cleaning service cleans up

TOKYO (R) — The first personalised underwear cleaning service is cleaning up in Tokyo. Movimento Company comes to the door, takes away underwear in a discreet bag and brings it back clean for 1,500 yen (about \$12) a week. "I started the business for busy bachelors who have no time to do such things. But we have housewives and students as clients," Company Director Keisuke Nakamichi said. The company washes everybody's underwear separately so there will be no mixups. "We also disinfect the machines each time. Our washing machines are cleaner than the ones you have at home," Nakamichi added.

Report: Overpopulation could spur environmental catastrophe

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Earth faces environmental catastrophe unless developing nations stem rapid overpopulation, a population control group said Sunday, but a critic dismissed the report as invalid speculation by humourless doomsmen.

"World population, now 5.1 billion, grew by an unprecedented 90 million people last year. Over the next 10 years, the world will add another billion people. Ninety-two per cent of that growth is taking place in the poorer nations of the developing world," said the new report by the Population Institute.

"Unless we wake up to the serious damage population pressures are doing to this planet, we will see a 21st century that could offer unprecedented catastrophic consequences," Werner Fornos, the group's president, said before he released the report Sunday, the start of World Population Awareness Week.

Fornos warned of thinning of earth's protective ozone shield, heating of the atmosphere by air pollutants, waste and pollution of water supplies, loss of soils and forests, extinction of species and expansion of deserts.

He said the United States and other industrialised nations should consider forgiving debts of

developing nations which establish policies to halt environmental destruction and to expand educational and employment opportunities for women. Birth rates are lower where women have greater economic and social opportunities, Fornos said.

The report drew sharp criticism from University of Maryland Economist Julian Simon, who said that while "more people mean more problems, the history of humanity is a history of surmounting problems. New solutions leave us better off than if the original problems had never arisen. If we had only 1 million people on earth, we'd still be chasing rabbits and eating berries and roots."

"The Population Institute and other doomsmen have been wrong on every single prediction they have made for the past two decades," and people like Fornos "have no sense of humour" and "can manufacture scares faster than you can write stories about them," said Simon, a business administration professor.

"Contrary to their prophecies, every important human trend has improved," he said during a telephone interview. "Life is longer, health is better, all resources have become more available

rather than less available and in the United States our environment has become cleaner."

'Outrageously elitist'

Fornos labeled Simon's viewpoint "baloney" and "outrageously elitist" because "when you recognise the next billion people will come in just nine years, then you understand that competition for food and resources of this planet will become more intense."

Industrial nations have stable populations and can afford environmental protection, but in developing countries, "where populations are doubling every 20-30 years, there is rarely sufficient economic vitality to feed and clothe people, much less implement far-sighted environmental strategies," Fornos said.

He said depletion of earth's ozone layer will increase skin cancers and perhaps damage crops and seafoods, while atmospheric heating will raise sea levels and cause crop failures. Deforestation is likely to create more deserts, spur droughts, trigger extinctions and reduce oxygen production, while industrial pollution and human wastes will taint more water supplies, he added.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Bomb kills explosives expert in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — An explosives expert was killed Sunday when a bomb exploded at an ammunition dump that blew up a week earlier and killed 100 people, a Defence Ministry spokesman said. Four other experts lost their limbs and several others suffered minor injuries when the bomb exploded at the Ojri Camp, site of the April 10 blast that sent rockets, missiles and other weapons into the sky. The official death toll for the explosion rose to 100 Sunday when four more people died of their wounds in hospitals. More than 1,000 were injured. The army has been blowing up unexploded projectiles at the camp, between the capital, Islamabad, and its twin city, Rawalpindi.

Anti-Chinese protests continue in Tibet

PEKING (R) — Underground anti-Chinese protests pare continuing in Tibet despite a police crackdown following rioting in March, according to a Tibetan newspaper report. In a front-page notice in the official Tibet Daily, dated April 7 but reaching Peking only Monday, Lhasa police warned pro-independence activists to halt "all illegal activities." Some "criminals" had given themselves up to police and won lenient treatment since the riot, the notice said. "But there is still a very small minority of splitters who will not accept defeat and who continue to plot, engage in secret activities, stick up posters, spread reactionary slogans... and commit destructive acts," the notice said. It added: "Anyone... who carries out separatist activities will be suppressed. The organs of the People's Democratic dictatorship will severely punish criminals who make plots and take part in riots. If they do not heed warnings, they themselves will be responsible for consequences."

ETA claims worst attack this year

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (R) — The Basque separatist group ETA claimed responsibility Sunday night for shooting dead two policemen last Friday in its worst attack this year. ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) said in a statement it carried out the attack in which the policemen were shot several times in the head after being lured to a bar in the Basque capital of Vitoria. A passerby was wounded in the incident. The president of the Basque autonomous government, Jose Antonio Ardanza, said at the policemen's funeral that no one could now believe ETA's offers of a truce to accompany talks for a peaceful solution. "These attacks take all credibility from ETA's offers of negotiations. If they have to be accompanied by deaths and kidnaps, nobody can believe them anymore. With these acts, they do not really want a peaceful solution," he said.

Mao statue torn down at Peking University

PEKING (AP) — Workmen at Peking University have demolished a four-storey statue of Mao Tse-Tung, the tarnished and increasingly ignored founder of Communist China. The statue of chairman Mao in front of the main library was one of the largest in the nation. It stood at China's most prestigious college as a symbol of the 1966-76 cultural revolution started by leftist students with Mao's backing. Workers were seen dismantling the concrete statue under bright lights late Saturday night. It had been covered by scaffolding and plastic sheeting for more than a week, a U.S. student said. Early Sunday morning, the mammoth Mao was sawed off at the feet and came toppling down, leaving a large dent on the pavement, the student said. A smaller statue just inside the campus's west gate was also destroyed, leaving only the pedestals and some rubble. An official of the University Foreign Affairs Office, Li Yansong, said Monday the statue was being removed because it had weathered badly since students and teachers built it in 1967 at the height of the cultural revolution. Artists had been invited to design a smaller statue to be placed inside the University library, he said.

Nkomo named to top ruling party post

HARARE, Zimbabwe (R) — President Robert Mugabe, moving cautiously to implement a unity accord with the country's former chief opposition party, has named veteran opposition leader Joshua Nkomo to a top ruling party post. Nkomo was appointed interim second vice-president Sunday following a pact signed by Mugabe and the opposition chief last December to merge their two parties which had been fierce rivals since independence in 1980. "We now have two deputy presidents to assist me and this structure is still an interim one until we are fully integrated," Mugabe told a news conference in Harare on the eve of Zimbabwe's eighth independence anniversary.

Peru guerrillas bomb U.S.-financed institute

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Pro-Cuban guerrillas bombed two offices of a U.S.-financed cultural exchange institute, police said Sunday. No injuries were reported. Pamphlets of the Tupac Amaru revolutionary movement were found outside the offices of the Peruvian-American Cultural Institute in downtown Lima and the upper-class suburb of Miraflores late Saturday night, police said. The pamphlets said the bombings were in reprisal for U.S. bombings against Libya in April 1986. In the downtown attack shortly before midnight Saturday, 1.8 kilograms of dynamite destroyed the metallic door of the institute, broke windows and damaged desks and typewriters in the main hall of the building. A bank beside the building also was damaged. In Miraflores, the explosion destroyed the windshields of 20 cars.

TURIN, Italy — Organisers of a convention assessing Satan's impact on religious and cultural history have found that it is easier to raise hell than to raise cash.

Controversy over the attempt by a group of Turin academics and a theologian to shed a scientific light on the Prince of Darkness, and warnings of doom from local black magicians, have frightened off wary sponsors.

Organisers have been left with only a fraction of funds they need.

The month-long convention, planned for October and entitled Devils, Demons and Dialogues, was the brainchild of three Turin University professors, a Jesuit theologian and a public relations specialist.

The aim of the convention, which newspapers called Turin's cultural event of the year, was to study in detail how the devil and the concept of evil have influenced popular traditions, literature, art, music and religion.

It was to include an exhibition in Turin's former royal palace, portraying the devil and evil as well as masks and trinkets from various cultures.

Films ranging from Ingmar Bergman's "The Devil's Wanton" to Roman Polanski's "Rosemary's Baby" were planned, and also readings of Dante's "Inferno" and Milton's "Paradise Lost."

Operas and music with "diabolic" themes such as Gounod's "Faust" would be staged. Philosophers, psychologists, theologians and exorcists from around the world would lecture on evil.

All hell broke loose

"Everything was going fairly well," said Maria Teresa Gatti, head of a public relations firm organising the project.

panies we sounded out for contributions asked to see more details of the plan," she said.

Then, as some newspapers put it, all hell broke loose.

Antonio Craxi, brother of Italy's former prime minister Bettino Craxi and member of an Indian religious sect, was not pleased. If Turin was to sponsor the devil convention he wanted money from the city for his own exhibition on "human values."

Turin's black magicians — who are listed in the phone book of this city, said to be a centre of the occult, sorcery and devil worship — warned that such prolonged concentration of attention to evil could conjure up and unprecedented disaster.

Local Roman Catholic church groups were not overjoyed that the convention would coincide with year-long commemorations of Turin's St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesian religious orders, and Pope John Paul's visit to Turin in September.

Gatti said the project was hurt by "esoteric groups seeking free publicity." She added: "This is an intellectual and even somewhat light-hearted attempt to discuss the devil and evil."

Sponsors were not worried about the convention's content, she said, but about the result the furor has had on the image of the hard-working industrial city, home of the FIAT motor company.

"People are now thinking three times before signing up," she said. "Banks are afraid they might lose customers."

Stimulating reaction

Father Eugenio Costa, head of Turin's Jesuit Theological Centre and one of the convention's principal organisers, was surprised by all the fuss.

"Some of those who recoiled at the idea, such as the so-called magicians, were simply upset that their view of evil was going to be questioned in an intellectual way," said Costa.

A rotund, balding man with a